

## **GERTF Meeting**

January 20, 2006

**Members Present:** John Ambrose, Sarah Ash, Samara Burnette, Mike Carter, Jo-Ann Cohen, Allen Dupont, Ken Esbenshade, Louis Hunt, Chris Kessler, Jerome Lavelle, Marian McCord, Jose Picart, Laura Severin, Joni Spurlin, Jordan Wallace, Carrie Zelna.

Associate Dean John Ambrose opened the meeting to order at 8:05. Ambrose moved to approve the Jan. 6, 2006 minutes.

- Correction to be made, pg 2., change “Ashe” to “Ash.”

With this change, motion was approved.

- 1) Pick up with discussion of “Proposal C.3.””
- 2) Discuss “Proposal F.”
- 3) For Next time:

1) Sarah Ash opened up the discussion with a brief summary of the “Proposal C.3” highlighting some of the basic structure. This proposal includes a Freshman Experience, Capstone Experience, and a set of Core credits. Ash then walked group members through the qualities rubric worksheet, which was filled out and attached to the proposal revision.

- Proposal still has some adjustments for things like transfer students, resources, etc.
- Believes this proposal could be very portable between colleges.
- Highlights some of the elements discussed in the University’s Draft Strategic Plan.
- Goal is to have the Freshman Experience set the tone for the rest of the student’s experience at the university.

### Discussion:

- How would a freshman experience course influence the individual colleges’ decisions to offer different of a freshman type course?
- How will requiring 1 course for all students impact scheduling and getting large numbers of students into the course?
- Would Capstone Experience be by theme? Would there be a default theme, like using STS courses or something similar?
- Committee members asked J. Lavelle to comment on his experience with the Engineering exp. Course. Discussed how difficult it is to get a lot of students through a single class and the different ways they’ve tried to accomplish it.
- Committee members seemed to agree they liked the linear approach of the experiences and core requirements.
- Would the freshman experience create a small classroom feeling right from the start of a student’s college career?
- Would an introductory course like the freshman experience be taught by cross-discipline faculty or TA’s?
- How would the proposal incorporate outside experience to the campus community and create discussion between students & faculty?

- There was some discussion about how technology might be used as part of a freshman/capstone experience. For example, discussion boards, virtual modeling & simulations could be used.
- The capstone experience would be a good opportunity for assessment.

2) Chris Kessler summarized “Proposal F” (F.1 – SGA Diversity Commission) focusing on the 2 cr. Diversity Course and 2 cr. Freshman Orientation elements in this proposal.

- Class and lab aspects of the freshman orientation would emphasize services and events on campus that would help the student in learning about the university, the role on campus and in the community, and provide students an outlet for discussion. Similar to a College Survival Course – students expressing a need for this type of course.
- Could the orientation course be something other than a required course? Could it be incorporated into something else?
- There seems to be many places where Proposal C and F overlap. Could some of the ideas expressed in Proposal F be incorporated into a Freshman or Capstone experience?
- If a campus-wide freshman experience course was developed, would colleges continue to provide their own freshman experience course?

3) Next meeting, GERTF will:

- Pick up with discussion of a revised copy of “Proposal B” – Marian McCord. (“Proposal B.2”)
- Guest speaker : Invite Maxine Atkinson, Director, First Year Inquiry Program, to the meeting to discuss First Year Inquiry – what it is, what’s in place now, and how it is being used on campus.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa McConnell.