

**GERTF Meeting  
December 2, 2005**

**Members Present:** John Ambrose, Sarah Ash, Samara Burnette, Mike Carter, Allen Dupont, Ken Esbenshade, Chris Gould (for Jo-Ann Cohen), Michelle Johnson, Chris Kessler, March Krotee, Jerome Lavelle, Marian McCord, Joni Spurlin, Randy Thomson (for Laura Severin), Jordan Wallace, Carrie Zelna.

Associate Dean John Ambrose called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Ambrose moved to approve the Nov. 18, 2005 minutes. Motion was approved.

- 1- Mike Carter to present Proposal D in discussion with the evaluation and rubric.
- 2- Ken Esbenshade brought another proposal to the table. For discussion purposes, this is "Proposal G."
- 3- Other discussion/notes
- 4- Student group submitted revised copy of Proposal F.

1) Mike Carter began with a description of his proposal, Proposal D. The GER model in his proposal is course based with integrated and focused perspectives. It includes 34-35 hours for GER credit and has "greater flexibility." The Proposal has a good approach for incorporating themes into focused perspectives to allow students to choose from "minor sets" courses they would be interested in taking to meet GER. The taskforce was reminded that models too prescriptive or detailed will constrain different students in different ways.

Allen Dupont read through the Qualities Worksheet for Proposal D and members discussed it. Many liked the idea of a list of multidisciplinary minor sets centered around a theme that would be flexible to students' interests as well as the reduced number of GER hours.

Some Concerns mentioned:

- How easily would this plan implemented?
- Who would manage a list of multidisciplinary minors?
- How will the students be introduced to the minor sets?
- How will it affect transfer students, both internal and external?
- How can this be made portable?

2) Ken Esbenshade brought a new proposal to the table for discussion by the taskforce. This proposal is labeled "Proposal G" for future reference.

"Proposal G":

- Boiled down to a base of 30 hours with specific credits and categories.
- The courses for these requirements would have to be broad in nature and not be included as part of any department, college, or university requirement.
- Students would be encouraged to have individualized GE plans and have their plan approved early in their academic career.

- Approved general education programs would be transferable from program/college to program/college as students transfer.
- Faculty, programs, departments, and disciplinary areas would be encouraged to develop a prescriptive set of courses around issues or themes to be incorporated into the students' GER plans.

Allen Dupont repeated the Qualities guidelines and members further discussed Proposal G.

Discussion: Members discussed how the lower hours and categories in Proposal G could be incorporated with Proposal D's idea of thematic minors/sets of courses. Proposal G points out separating GER program and major/discipline programs so that GER isn't tied into or counted for majors/programs. This model could provide for the opportunity to encourage students to take more of the GER at the beginning of the collegiate career. It could also help improve graduation and retention rates.

Some Concerns:

- The Proposal doesn't seem to address built-in experiences (community service, leadership opportunities, multicultural/diversity experiences) and relies on the prescriptive set of courses.
- How does the University assess the students – how do we know they are getting what we want them to get?
- The sets/thematic approaches mentioned in Proposals D & G would need some structure and integration that would bind the courses together.
- Would the University need to develop guidelines on how the rest of the 90 hours for any program will be used?
- How much falls to the college/department/program?
- Proposal G doesn't discuss the how students could be intellectually engaged within their majors.

3) The Taskforce also briefly discussed the idea of a General Education College designed to allow students to enter college and experience sets of courses to meet GER that may be centered around certain themes, issues, or interests. This idea has been discussed in the past and could be included in future GERTF discussions.

4) Student Gov. Diversity group has submitted a revision of their proposal and will hand out copies at the next GERTF meeting. This revision will be named "Proposal F.1" for future reference.

Next time:

- An hour of the meeting will be devoted to a presentation by Joni Spurlin on figures from the 2004 Sophomore survey data.
- Student Gov. Diversity group will hand out their proposal revision.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa McConnell.