

GERTF: Summer Session 1:

July 5, 2006

Ricks 308

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Present: Allen Dupont, Jose Picart, Ken Esbenshade, Mike Carter, March Krotee, Jerome Lavelle, Louis Hunt, Joni Spurlin, Laura Severin, Jacqui H. Morton, Carrie Zelna, John Ambrose.

Allen Dupont opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed the group. The Task Force began the first summer session with a few agenda items for discussion.

1. Voting and discussion of GE portability.
2. Voting and discussion of a non-binding agreement on defining hours and distribution of General Education
3. Voting and discussion of the First-Year Experience and Inquiry Guided Learning as delivery method.

1. The Task Force has not voted to guarantee the new/proposed General Education Program (including the freshman course) is portable and accepted across the colleges. This item needs to be voted on for the record.

Discussion:

- It is important for the Task Force to decide what “portability” means.
- What is “portability?”
- Task Force members agreed colleges need to accept the proposed GER program as it is (will be) with the option for colleges to add college or major requirements but not add to the GER requirements.
- Recommend that the freshman course/capstone be required portable. How can the GE program be defined so that students can transfer GE credits across any college no matter what major they choose.
- What is the core requirement of the GER? How should it be defined? One member suggested defining it as a block of experiences with specific methods of meeting those experiences. What would be the way to “check it off” to see that students meet it and get credit if they switch colleges.
- Jacqui H. Morton mentioned a study from the First Year College (FYC) that shows courses that seem to transfer easily and those that seem to cause problems for students. She offered to share this information with the Task Force.
- Task Force members also discussed the idea of “graduating from the university” versus “graduating from the college” to promote a coherent flow within the GE program.

After further discussion, the Task Force moved to approve the following statement:

General Education is a university set of learning experiences that is independent of the major that is transferable across the colleges.

The motion was passed by a majority vote from present members.

2. The second item for the session was to propose and develop a non-binding agreement of how many hours are defined in a proposed General Education program.

Discussion:

- For a general education program, the Task Force agreed they'd like to see a set of competencies met, either through courses or learning experiences, that also include the first-year experience (FYE) and a capstone experience.
- Laura Severin presented the following concept for distribution of general education hours:

Category:	Hours:
FYE (first-year experience)	2
Humanities	6
Social Sciences	6
Math	6
Science	7
Communication	7
PE	1
Capstone	3
Total:	38

- The above areas represent categories of competencies the TF agrees should be included in a general education program.
- Next, the TF referred to the original GER Task Force: Draft Mission Statement document, specifically at the rationale section to examine the competencies in general education that were including in earlier discussions.
- These include:
 1. Logical & creative thinking (LCT)
 2. Value of diversity and an understanding of human history and cultures (DHHC)
 3. Global knowledge (GK)

4. knowledge of science and scientific reasoning (S&SR)
 5. Well considered moral, philosophical, aesthetic, and intellectual convictions (MPAII)
 6. Effective Communication (Comm)
 7. understand & evaluate the interaction among science, technology, and society (STS)
 8. development of attitudes and skills for a healthy life (HL)
- The TF then looked at the SACS accreditation categories for general education:
 1. Humanities and Fine arts
 2. Social and Behavior Sciences
 3. Natural Sciences and Math

(1 course [3 hrs credit] in each category)
 - The TF was also reminded there are also UNC requirements involved with general education and the group will look at these at a future date.
 - Further discussion among the TF members developed the following tentative proposal for GE credits and distribution, using the categories specified in the GERTF draft mission rationale document and short description of courses that could fall in these categories:

Category:	Hours:
LCT [FYE, math]	X >= 5
DHHC [SS]	3
GK [H & SS]	3
S&SR [NS, lab & math]	4
MPAII [H & FA]	3
Comm [comm., ENG 101]	4
STS [FYE & Capstone, STS's]	3
HL [PE, NS, Pscyh]	2
Free Electives	9
Total:	36

- Proposal discussed again towards close of meeting: TF took a moment from the discussion of the GE credits and distribution to look at a related agenda item →

3. Ambrose presented the item for voting, that the “First-year experience, (FYE), be taught using the Inquiry-Guided Approach with the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs (DUAP) and First-Year Inquiry Program (FYI) providing training for FYE instructors.

- A motion was made to approve the following statement:
The First-Year Experience will use Inquiry-Guided Learning (IGL) as the delivery method.

- 5 – voted yes; 3 – voted no.
- The TF briefly touched on the necessary resources for a FYE using the IGL method. How would the FYE course be handled across the colleges? How will it be delivered – forums, lectures with breakout sessions? Further logistics will be discussed in the future.

→ The TF returned to the previous topic of credit hours and distribution. Some issues to be aware of include: shrinking GER requirements may also cause some internal transfer problems; and more flexibility built into the program and reduced hours could help students take courses they are interested in;

- Should the TF consider making a list of what cannot be accepted in the Free Electives category? For instance, restrict it in a way that colleges cannot use prerequisites for another course in the major or a remedial course as an automatic fill-in for free elective slots.
- The TF also would like to propose that the “*GE program contain no more than 36 hours including free electives as in framework.*”
- J. Morton moved to approve the proposed statement, and seconded by M. Krotee.
- Motion was approved.
- The TF will pick up with the discussion of the proposed framework and credit requirements at the next summer session.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Melissa McConnell