

### **GERTF: Summer Session 3:**

July 19, 2006  
Ricks 308  
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Present:** Joni Spurlin, Mike Carter, Jo-Ann Cohen, Sarah Ash, Carrie Zelna, Ken Esbenshade, Laura Severin, Dan Robison, Jacqui H. Morton, John Ambrose, Jerome Lavelle.

**Guest:** Nancy Whelchel, Assistant Director for Survey Research, University Planning Office

Dr. Ambrose opened the meeting at 8:35 and welcomed Nancy Whelchel to the Task Force meeting.

Ambrose moved to approve the July 13, 2006 minutes. Minutes were approved. Ambrose introduced Nancy Whelchel, guest in today's meeting, who came to discuss the results from the 2006 NCSU Baccalaureate Alumni Survey. Nancy gave an overview of the survey and the results focusing on different areas. The group focused on alumni responses to questions on professional preparation, goals of undergraduate education, physical education & volunteerism, further education, and employment. (<http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/survey/reports/alum06/alum06toc.htm>)

- 1) Last week in the July 13 meeting, the task force approved a proposed general education structure using subject areas. Dr. Ambrose advised the TF needed to be on record that even though the proposed structure is listed by subject matter they are talking about the learning outcomes associated in these subject areas.
  - a. The TF talked about moving some GER courses from the university level to the responsibility of colleges such as the speaking and writing across the curriculum and they need to make sure these resources are available and if there would be an increase or decreased on availability based on resources and student need.
  - b. Mike Carter and Laura Severin spoke to the issue of resources and they believed the resources would not be sufficient but would be available, reminding the TF that each curriculum will have to make changes and colleges should look at where these changes will have the most impact.
  - c. Brief discussion of modifying and abbreviating process for changes in curriculum as they are made.
  - d. Brief mention of the issue of having the new GER retroactive or applying to incoming freshman.
  
- 2) Discussion of the First Year Experience course and themes
  - a. There will be a committee assigned to work on developing details of the FYE course. The committee will be appointed by the Dean of Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs.
  - b. FYE – General consensus of the task force was it will be a 2 credit course with the four previously defined objectives and would be taught using IGL delivery methods and would be an introduction to the GER program.

- c. Review of 4 objectives: Diversity, promote critical thinking, engagement in local community, and interdisciplinary. This course will be taught using IGL methods
- d. Discussion of what the course might look like – highlights.
  - Course should have a title to reflect the general goal of the course.
  - The course could provide an introduction to themes and be taught by an interdisciplinary group of engaging and excited faculty
  - Develop an “academy” or “corps” of faculty for this course.
  - Maybe have lecture & discussion groups. Each college offer a certain number of sections with one faculty member on record as responsible for course and sections.
  - Agreement needs to be made on who will be responsible for what with the FYE course.
  - Will there be a faculty “home” for faculty teaching the FYE?
  - The FYE will be piloted with the understanding it will need to be modified as the university sees what works and what doesn’t.

3) Dr. Jo-ann Cohen made a motion to approve the following:

*A university-wide course developed through the collaboration of all colleges with a framework of objectives (4 objectives and IGL methods. This will be an introduction to general education. Phase 1 will be planned for Fall '07 and Spring '08 and will be required of all incoming freshmen beginning Fall '08. The task force envisions that an interdisciplinary corps of faculty will be developed to teach the course and will form a collaborative learning community much like those formed in the past as part of the Hewlett projects.*

- a. Jacqui Morton seconded motion.
- b. **Vote:** 7 yes
- c. 1 no; Mike Carter – “I don’t think this is the optimal learning experience for students.”

4) Discussion of themes and how they might work

- a. Began discussing thematic approaches – possibly define themes being 12 hours that would include the capstone. The task force had started discussing a motion dealing with thematic approaches and the number of credit hours and break down.

5) Next time: Pick up motion discussion of thematic approaches and credit hour breakdown. Also Jose Picart will have the diversity statement for the group to examine.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa McConnell.