

GERTF Minutes:
Aug. 22, 2006
Ricks 308

Present: John Ambrose, Catherine Freeman, Jacqui H. Morton, Jerome Lavelle, Mike Carter, March Krotee, Jo-Ann Cohen, Laura Severin, Carrie Zelna, Allen Dupont.

Dr. Ambrose opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Task Force members reviewed the minutes from Aug. 2, 2006, and Ambrose moved to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.

The members then reviewed the motion from last time concerning co-requisites.

- Motion (8/2/06) - to recommend to *“include at least one co-requisite, either ‘global knowledge’ or ‘diversity,’ as defined in the goals and outcomes provided by Jose Picart. A co-requisite is a requirement that at least one of the courses chosen by a student to satisfy GE requirements must focus on a particular topic (in this case, we will decide whether this will be a global knowledge or diversity, or both if we approve two co-requisites).*

With Jose Picart’s absence, the task force agreed to wait til next meeting to pick up with the global knowledge and diversity discussion.

Dr. Ambrose passed out a few documents including the current proposed GER structure, the recent GER Status Report of Approved Motions, and GER Requirements at Peer Institutions. Allen Dupont presented the different requirements of GER at peer institutions. Members noted that many of them seemed to have some kind of U.S. diversity course and global diversity elements through required courses. A short discussion on international students and integration with the undergraduate community was held. The task force also discussed the subject of the proposed capstone as some members have received questions about it. Does the committee have STS courses in mind that could serve as default capstones? What is the consensus of the STS lists as they stand now?

Dr. Severin spoke briefly about how the STS program may not be able to support the full burden of providing capstone course and how future plans would need to accommodate the programs needs with the GER program. The TF also talked about proceeding with the FYE and Capstone in a pilot program with a move to open to the new GER in fall 2008. The committee discussed selecting a small audience to use with the pilot first year experience course in fall 2007 and the possibility of trying it as a 3-credit course the first time with the understanding it would be a 2 hour credit later.

The TF discussed the GER courses as they stand now and the approval process these courses go through. Should a committee such as CUE go through the lists as new GER objectives are developed to see what fits? The TF looked at how GER courses fit with themes and how themes might pan out. Many agreed themes would probably be drawn from a GER approved list. This would also help with the assessment piece. Assessment could be focused in the intro and capstone course, but also sampled with certain courses from the list students used for themes.

The TF, after further discussion, realized that the full rollout of the new General Education Requirements may not take place until Fall 2008. The next meeting will be Friday, Aug. 25, from 8:00 –10:00 a.m. in Ricks Hall , room 308. Dr. Ambrose asked all members to be looking for emails to schedule meeting times for next week.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa McConnell.