

**Minutes of the Task Force on General Education
November 18, 2004**

Members present: John Ambrose, Sarah Ash, Michael Carter, Allen Dupont, Ken Esbenshade, Chris Gould, Marian McCord, Jacqui Hawkins Morton, March Krotee, Jerome Lavelle, Jose Picart, Dan Robison, Laura Severin, Joni Spurlin, Kathy Wallace.

The minutes of November 16, 2004 were approved with the correction of the word breath to breadth and the addition of the statement "according to survey data, there are some areas where students are not learning what we expect" to the negatives column.

Most members were in agreement with the statement that our original GER was an attempt to fill in the cracks in a technical education by tacking on courses in non-technical disciplines but the institution has outgrown that vision and it may be time to look toward broader concepts that we want to include as part of the whole education experience and perhaps achieve in more integrated ways than in the past.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to developing consensus on the overarching concepts that should be considered in a future GER:

- I. Competency within a discipline
- II. Cross-disciplinary understanding
 - A. Integrated, cross-disciplinary knowledge
 - B. Knowledge of the role of other disciplines in their own discipline
 - C. Understand other disciplines' ways of thinking/knowing
- III. Problem Solving Skills
 - A. Understand how to apply technical knowledge to human problems/issues
 - B. Diversity of experiences that they can bring to bear on a variety of situations
 - C. Competencies to solve problems on micro and macro scales
- IV. Diversity and Cultural Skills
 - A. Appreciation of diverse viewpoints
 - B. Ability to work in diverse teams
 - C. Communication skills
 - D. Conflict resolution skills
- V. Self-awareness and Context
 - A. Aware of their strengths, weaknesses, interests, etc.
 - B. Ability to put knowledge and ideas ("things") in context – with respect to their disciplines and the wider university, and socially and historically

The task force decided that these ideas should be incorporated into a draft mission statement that could be brought from this group to the campus community as a framework for discussion. A subcommittee to identify to draft the statement: Mike Carter, Jerome Lavelle, Jose Picart, Laura Severin,

Members are to bring their calendars to the next meeting so that we may set up future meeting dates.

Submitted by Kathy Wallace