

## **Minutes of the Task Force on General Education December 14, 2004**

Members present: John Ambrose, Sarah Ash, Michael Carter, Allen Dupont, Ken Esbenshade, Chris Gould, March Krotee, Marian McCord, Karen Helm, Jose Picart, Dan Robison, Laura Severin, Kathy Wallace.

The minutes of the November 23 meeting were approved as presented.

The subcommittee to draft a mission statement (Carter, Picart, Dupont, Severin, Lavelle) presented a revision to the draft presented 11-23-04. This revision flows from NC State Mission Statement to Undergraduate Education Mission Statement to General Education Mission Statement to General Education Rationale Statement to General Education Objectives.

Comments included:

- Laura Severin pointed out that the “goals” statement from the last draft had been eliminated as a separate layer but some of the principles included may need to be folded back into the General Education Mission Statement.
- Some felt that the rationale statement may be too suggestive of the cafeteria model since we are trying to avoid suggesting a delivery mode. The subcommittee pointed out that this was meant to be a sample and the text could be altered but the significance of the rationale statement was to insert a level that would serve as a justification for the objectives that would follow in the next level, whatever the campus decides that would be.
- If the rationale statement does remain in its current form, there were several suggestions of edits to specific terms used:
  - “knowledge of foreign languages” may need to change to something more like “knowledge of global cultures,”
  - “scientifically literate” to “scientifically informed,”
  - “logical approaches to problem solving” to “creative and logical approaches to problem solving,”
  - “because the development of and application of new technologies require scientifically literate citizens” to “because new technologies require scientifically literate citizens”
  - an expansion of diversity aspects beyond the cultural (sexual and economic differences would be an example of diversity aspects that transcend culture) to perhaps something like “the ability to understand and consider diverse perspectives”.
- A suggestion to revise the opening line in the General Education Mission Statement from “The mission of undergraduate education at NC State is to enhance our students’ lives by providing a rich environment....” To “The mission of undergraduate education at NC State is to enhance our students’ lives *and their ability to improve the world in which they live* by providing a rich environment....”
- A concern that having an Undergraduate Education Mission Statement separate from a General Education Mission Statement may indicate a separation in the major and the GER program that may not be intended or desirable.

The subcommittee will work on a revised draft for our next meeting which will be determined by email proxy.

Submitted by Kathy Wallace

