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3-7-2013

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Assessment of student learning committee minutes **3-7-13**

Present: Ted Pappenfus, Wendy Emo, Stacey Aronson, Barbara Burke, Jim Togeas, Steve Burks, Emily Sunderman, Brooks Jessup

Absent: Nancy Helsper, Jana Koeler, Andrew Sletten

1. Minute Taker - Jessup
2. Approval of minutes from 2/14/13 – 7 in favor, 1 abstention

3. GenEd Survey update and table scheduling

Ted reported that the survey ends tomorrow (3/8). Students will get a certificate for taking the survey. He has requested tables for next Monday through Wednesday so that students can get their certificates. We will print 200 initially and then up to 300. It was decided to go with 11am-1pm on Monday and Tuesday, and that the following committee members would run the tables:

Barbara/Steve/Jim and Ted on Monday;
Wendy and Ted on Tuesday.

Steve: Note for next year – students should be able to print certificate upon submission.

Ted - Students were a bit confused about the question on GenEd survey about GenEd requirements fulfilled outside UMM; this should be clarified for next year.

4. Analysis of HLC Report (Continued)

Wendy – question of “closing the loop”. It is important document what we do for assessment.

Steve – faculty are already improving their courses all the time, but they don’t necessarily think of themselves as doing it in a formal way.

Wendy – it is important to do pre-assessment in the courses, at the beginning of the course.

Barbara – should we ask the same questions at the beginning of the student career and then at the end?

Steve – it would be very difficult to do that for the actual content of the various GenEd areas.

Barbara – how do we commonly compare across different courses with the same GenEd?

Ted – the way GenEds are defined makes it difficult to assess them. Do we need a different framework for how they are presented?

Wendy – there are two levels here: end of course, and end of senior year.

Wendy – the starting place is the survey that has already been done on GenEd.

Steve – It seems HLC report is questioning the overall structure of the Gen Ed and whether we think it still suits us.

Jim – the Gen Ed program has evolved, the question is whether it has improved. We could ask - how many disciplines have at least one course that satisfies every gen ed requirement? Are there any disciplines in which students can fulfill all Gen Eds without taking a course from a different discipline? [*Letter submitted to Committee with details.*]
Jim's view is that the evolution of the program has not strengthened it. Allowing students to take a HIST course, for example, from another discipline besides History limits the exposure of students to other disciplines.

Steve – there are no disciplines that could possibly cover all categories, like science with a lab.

Barbara – At one point, it was encouraged for disciplines to offer more Gen Eds.

Steve – the surveys usually show that people love the Gen Eds related to their own major.

Barbara – will the data show whether students took upper level courses for Gen Ed requirements? Those courses have prereqs.

Jim – Gen Ed designators have proliferated in disciplines. This is a weakness because you can get General Education and a major all in the same discipline. But we do not have the data to show whether this is the case.

Wendy – how do we get data from the survey out to disciplines in time to use for next fall?

Ted – that would be ideal, but probably won't have enough time.

Wendy – when do we need to meet to make that happen?

Ted – we should develop some plan to work with the data – this hasn't been done in the past.

[Barbara needed to leave early at 3:40 for another meeting.]

Steve – What can we use the summary from Nancy to do?

Ted – Bart shared data from assessment at St. Olaf – does assessment in both Freshman and Senior years. However, students' own perceptions are not always reflective of what they are learning.

Ted – this is the last year that we have seniors who took the FYS, before the change to IC.

Wendy – are we saying we want to write a Freshman survey for 2013?

Emily – when would they take it? When they register?

Steve – that would probably take regent approval for mandatory survey at time of registration. We should ask.

Wendy – on effective writing, from the perspective of the workplace, should we be working on other kinds of writing than essay writing? Such as using electronic media.

Ted - how do we get the data on GE designators within each discipline? Let's start with the registrar's office?

Ted – propose next meeting to be March 28.