

General Education Council

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2010

Allie Young 305

The General Education Council met at 7:30 a.m. April 28, 2010, in Room 305 Allie Young. Members present were Clarendia Phillips, Yvonne Baldwin, Robert Boram, Cathy Thomas, Elsie Pritchard, Rebecca Katz, Edna Schack, Members absent were: Barbara Dehner, Glen Colburn, Timothy Hare, Carol Wymer, Charles Patrick, Beverly McCormick, Dayna Seelig, Cyndi Gibbs, and Kerry Murphy.

1. Minutes of April 14 meeting and the April 23 meeting were corrected and approved.
2. **Old Business:**
 - a. FYS Workshop/FYS subcommittee updates were provided by Robert Boram. The first of two faculty workshops is scheduled for this afternoon. The second is set for May 12. The expectation is that all faculty teaching a FYS section will attend. It was agreed that some kind of make-up session should be provided for those who cannot attend either session.
 - b. Yvonne Baldwin reported that Dayna Seelig telephoned this morning to say that the Gen Ed Director position and the Assessment Coordinator positions are being finalized by HR. Dayna's office plans to send out an announcement to all faculty prior to the end of the semester so that interested faculty will know these positions are available should they want to apply.
 - c. Once again, the issue of 300 level general education courses was discussed. The document that has been approved prohibits 300 level courses (except the discipline based capstone). This is seen as detrimental in several of the technical programs.
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Capstone requirement** was discussed. Some departments are apparently under the impression that there is a "General Education Capstone" that their students may take instead of a capstone in the program of study. This is not the case. The "General Education Curriculum and Courses Distribution Proposal," approved by the Faculty Senate on 7 May 2009, addresses the Capstone in several sections: At point #5. "The First Year Seminar ... and General Education Capstone will meet the university requirements of addressing and assessing the General education student learner outcomes 1a, 1b, 1c, 2e, and 2f. At point #5b. "The General Education Capstone will be in the discipline to demonstrate the integration of General education knowledge and skills with the discipline, to be taught by faculty in the discipline. (Note: Programs may choose to create a three or more hour course to fulfill this requirement.)" In the 128 to 120 process, this topic was discussed in the context of "double dipping." **It appears that some units are under the impression that the capstone may not be part of their program requirements. The intention of the FGEAC in the approved document is that the Capstone culminates the program of study and is a requirement for program**

completion. Its connection to Gen Ed is as the location for exit level general education assessment and its integration into the discipline. The Capstone is proposed by the discipline, taught by the discipline, assessed by the discipline – in every sense it is a discipline based course- but the course must meet required SLOs.

The Council also discussed whether students with double majors must complete the capstone in each. In the past, a student technically had to complete only one capstone, but a number of programs would not waive their capstone for a student completing double major requirements. The recommendation of the GEC is that this issue should remain a program level decision. In other words, every graduating student must complete a capstone in their program of study. Students with double majors will be subject to the requirements of those particular programs. **MSU 499C, the capstone for the Bachelor of University Studies, is NOT an option for students in other programs of study.**

4. The meeting adjourned at 9 a.m. Two remaining meetings this semester: Friday, May 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. and either Wednesday, May 12, or Friday, May 14 – the latter TBD at the May 7 meeting.