

Minutes

General Education Council

September 10, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHRISTINA CONROY, MIKE DOBRANSKI, MICHAEL FULTZ, WILSON GONZALEZ-ESPADA, MARK GRAVES, TIMOTHY HARE, NILESH JOSHI, SARA LINDSEY, KERRY MURPHY, ROSLYN PERRY, CLAREDA PHILLIPS, TOM WILLIAMS

- I. MAY 01, 2015 MINUTES FOR VOTE
MARK GRAVES MADE A **MOTION** TO APPROVE. GEC VOTED AND **MOTION CARRIED**.
- II. NEW MEMBERS
NEW MEMBERS FOR THIS YEAR ARE SCOTT DAVISON, MIKE DOBRANKSI, SARA LINDSEY, AND MICHAEL FULTZ.
ALL MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT INTRODUCED THEMSELVES.
- III. VICE CHAIR
MARK GRAVES NOMINATED TIMOTHY HARE. TIMOTHY ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION AND WILL SERVE AS VICE-CHAIR.
- IV. FIRST YEAR SUBCOMMITTEE
DISCUSSED IN THE FYS REPORT BY TIMOTHY HARE.
- V. REPORTS
 - a. FYS (TIMOTHY HARE)
 - THE FIRST YEAR SUBCOMMITTEE GUIDELINES WILL BE REVISED AND POSTED TO BLACKBOARD. WE WILL DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THEM AT THE NEXT MEETING.
 - BECAUSE ENROLLMENT WAS LOWER THAN ANTICIPATED, WE HAD FEWER (100-200) STUDENTS WHO WERE UNABLE TO GET A FYS COURSE INTO THEIR FALL SCHEDULE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENROLL THOSE STUDENTS IN SPRING COURSES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE THE NEED FOR NO MORE THAN 15 SECTIONS OF FYS FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER.
 - THE FIRST LEARNING COMMUNITY LUNCH ARE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 15 AND SEPTEMBER 16.
 - THE FYS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE FOCUSING THIS YEAR ON THE COMMON READING. THERE IS A GENERAL OPINION AMONG THE FYS SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS NOT WORKING. WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO INTEGRATE THE COMMON READING INTO FYS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE ENTIRE CAMPUS COMMUNITY.
 - ◆ QUESTION: IS THERE ANY WAY TO INTEGRATE THE COMMONALITY THAT ALREADY EXISTS IN THE QEP PROGRAM THAT IS ALREADY IN ALL FYS SECTIONS AND BUILD IT INTO THE COMMON READING WITHOUT ASKING FYS INSTRUCTORS TO TEACH ANOTHER BOOK.
 - ◆ THIS COULD CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED. THE FYS SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD NOT MAKE THE FINAL DECISION. DISCUSSION WILL BE STARTED AT THE UPCOMING LEARNING COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS, HOPEFULLY DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS.
 - b. REGISTRAR (KERRY MURPHY)
NO REPORT
- VI. QEP

THIS WAS ON THE AGENDA AS A REMINDER THAT THE QEP IS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN ALL FYS SECTIONS. IF THERE ARE WAYS IN WHICH THE GEN ED COUNCIL CAN BE SUPPORTIVE, PLEASE BRING THAT TO OUR ATTENTION.

- TIMOTHY HARE INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO COMPLAINTS WITH THE QEP AND THAT IT WAS GOING WELL. FYS INSTRUCTORS HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATING THAT THE QEP WAS MAKING THEIR LIVES EASIER. INSTEAD OF DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES, THEY ARE USING THOSE THAT ARE AVAILABLE.
- CHRISTINA CONROY INDICATED THAT THERE IS A FACULTY HANDBOOK THAT HAS SOME ACTIVITIES LISTED, AND THE LIBRARY WEB PAGE CONTAINS THE MSU CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY REPOSITORY. CHRISTINA ALSO COMMUNICATED THAT FACULTY MEMBERS COULD RECEIVE PDA FUNDS FOR DEVELOPING ACTIVITIES THAT EXPLICITLY IMPLEMENTS THE MSU CRITICAL THINKING MODEL.

VII. CLOSING THE LOOP

a. HOW TO USE ASSESSMENT DATA TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING.

- WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT DATA. THERE IS A CPE REPORT DUE ON NOVEMBER 1. THE DATA WE RECEIVED WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED AND A DETERMINATION MADE AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE 70% BENCHMARK.
- AS A COUNCIL, WE WILL NEED TO DETERMINE WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO (ACROSS CAMPUS) TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING. ALTHOUGH GENERAL EDUCATION IS NOT PART OF THE 5-YEAR INTERIM REPORT, WE WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE HAVE USED ASSESSMENT DATA TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING. THOSE CONVERSATIONS CAN CERTAINLY BE STARTED WITHIN DEPARTMENTS SO THAT WE CAN HAVE SOMETHING TO BUILD ON WHEN WE MOVE FORWARD.

b. GRADUATE GE EXIT EXAM

- THERE WAS A STATEMENT IN THE SACs MONITORING REPORT INDICATING THAT WE WOULD DEVELOP AN INTERNAL GRADUATE EXIT EXAM. WE HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION IF WE ARE GOING TO DO THAT – OR MAKE A JUSTIFICATION AS TO WHY WE HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO DO SO. THE REPORT WILL BE POSTED TO BLACKBOARD.
 - ◆ THE CURRENT PROJECT RUBRIC FOR THE CAPSTONE COURSE CONTAINS ITEMS THAT ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR MY DISCIPLINE. HOW ARE WE GOING TO WRITE A GENERAL EXIT EXAM WHERE STUDENTS ACROSS ALL DISCIPLINES ARE NOT BEING ASKED QUESTIONS THAT ARE NOT RELATED TO WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN STUDYING?
- RELATED TO THIS, LAST SEMESTER QUESTIONS CAME UP ABOUT THE CAPSTONE RUBRICS. CLARENDA MET WITH SOME CAPSTONE FACULTY REGARDING THE RUBRICS. THE CAPSTONE PRESENTATION RUBRIC DIDN'T SEEM TO BE AS PROBLEMATIC AS THE PROJECT RUBRIC. THE FACULTY FELT THAT THEY COULD INCORPORATE SOME OF THE REVISED COMS 108 ELEMENTS INTO THE CAPSTONE PRESENTATION RUBRIC AND IT WOULD BE EASIER TO TRACK STUDENTS FROM THE FIRST YEAR TO THEIR FINAL YEAR.
 - ◆ THERE WAS A DESIRE TO SEPARATE 1C (WRITE EFFECTIVELY FOR A VARIETY OF TARGET AUDIENCES) AND 2E (APPLY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO NEW SETTINGS) INTO TWO SEPARATE RUBRICS.
 - ◆ THEY ALSO QUESTIONED WHAT "NEW SETTINGS" MEANS. THE GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL MAY NEED TO OFFER SOME CLARIFICATION ON WHAT THE SLO'S MEAN.
 - ◆ THE FACULTY ALSO WANTED THE OPTION TO CREATE THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENTS AND NOT BE HELD TO THE PROJECT RUBRIC AS IS. THEY ARE LOOKING FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY AS THE DISCIPLINES ARE SO DISPARATE.

- IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE FYS RUBRICS BE SHARED WITH THE CAPSTONE INSTRUCTORS.
- CLARENDA HAVE THE CAPSTONE FACULTY PROPOSE SOMETHING TO THE COUNCIL.

VIII. COMMON MEASURES PILOT (1A, 1B, 6A, 6B)

- a. WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT DATA FOR THE COMMON MEASURES. WE ARE NOT MAKING CHANGES THIS YEAR, IN PART BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD NO ONE ANALYZE WHETHER GOING TO COMMON MEASURES HAS FACILITATED BETTER DATA COLLECTION.

IX. DISCUSSION ENSURED ABOUT WHETHER THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO WAIT ON AN ASSESSMENT PERSON TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE ADDITIONAL COMMON MEASURES WERE DEVELOPED, OR WHETHER GEC SHOULD CONTINUE THE PROCESS. WE WILL WAIT ON AN ASSESSMENT PERSON TO BE HIRED.

- THE QUESTION WAS ASKED AS TO WHETHER WE HAD SURVEYED THOSE FACULTY WHO ARE CURRENTLY USING COMMON MEASURES. TOM WILLIAMS HAS REPORTED THAT FACULTY HAVE PRAISED COMMON MEASURES (6A AND 6B) FOR THEIR FLEXIBILITY AND UTILITY.
 - WE DO NEED TO MORE FORMALLY POLL THE FACULTY CURRENTLY USING COMMON MEASURES.
- b. THE STATUS OF THE HIRING PROCESS FOR ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL WAS DISCUSSED. PREVIOUS CANDIDATES HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT TAKE THE POSITION BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE SUPPORT STAFF AVAILABLE. AS A RESULT, THE FIRST STEP IS GOING TO BE THE HIRING OF AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, AND THEN TO ADVERTISE FOR A DIRECTOR.
- IT WAS PERCEIVED THAT PREVIOUS ASSESSMENT PERSONNEL DID NOT UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT LEVEL ASSESSMENT.
 - IT WAS COMMUNICATED THAT A PROPOSAL IS IN THE WORKS TO ALLOW REASSIGNED TIME FOR EACH COLLEGE FOR THE EXPERTISE FROM EACH DISCIPLINE TO WORK WITH THE ASSESSMENT PERSON. DISCIPLINES WOULD HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON WHAT THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENTS ARE FOR THEIR AREA. THIS HAS YET TO BE APPROVED.

X. THE NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 11:30 – 12:30