

First-Year Council Meeting
Friday, Nov. 30, 2012

Members present: Crystal Gale, chair, Thomas Lane, Jim Moyer, Scott Handley, Mike Wood, and Tracey Glaessgen

Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Agenda:

General Updates

General Education Proposal

Plus/Minus grading consistency in fall 2012, approval to add statement to instructor contract/letter

Instructor recruitment

General Updates

A brief overview of GEP 101 for fall, included an increased number of Service Learning sections, and a piloted veterans-designated section and ELI section. Mike and Tracey have a Living-Learning Community meeting with Alisa Garbisch and others. For fall 2013, may cancel Learning Communities with English, and focus only on gen. ed courses with full-time instructors.

General Education Proposal

There are five specific General Education Goals GEP 101 is required to meet: Collaboration, Information Literacy, Public Affairs/Community Engagement, Public Affairs/Ethical Leadership, and Public Affairs/Cultural Competence..

Discussion followed re: ideas for assessing gen ed. goals, need for some standardized assignments scored with a common rubric, etc. Mike will follow up with Kelly Cara to further discuss options.

For Information Literacy,

- instructors may utilize either having a hands-on library tutorial with a reference librarian or using Search Path tutorial. Approximately 50% of the GEP instructors scheduled a hands-on library tutorial; does this mean that the other sections have all utilized Search Path? Do we need a “common” library assignment that all instructors will use? Briefly discussed some assessment tools Crystal is familiar with. May use pre-post? Further discussion needed.

Possible suggestions were discussed:

For all General Education Goals,

- require instructors to select from 3-5 approved assignments that meet each goal/combined goals. Offer flexibility for assignments that meet the other goals and objectives of the course.
- require assignments that demonstrate accountability for meeting General Education Goals. Use this as preferred criteria for instructor selection for the following year.
- solicit GEP instructors for ideas to create assignments that meet goals or ask for instructors to share one assignment that worked well.
- require instructors to submit a one page reflection.

For submitting items to CGEIP,

- since GEP 101 was not in existence during last CGEIP review, suggestions were to submit the GEP 101 course approval from Faculty Senate and summaries from GEP 101 annual reports.

Plus/Minus grading

Discussion with the following suggestions:

- require all sections to follow plus/minus grading or not to use plus/minus grading.
- if plus/minus grading is used, then suggest a numerical/percentage scale.

Instructor recruitment→

Discussion to try to recruit more faculty by asking Crystal to contact Faculty Senate to try to get Jim on the agenda.