

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

February 8, 2011

12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Mason Hall D3

Attending: Rick Davis (chair), Don Boileau, Rick Diecchio, Kim Eby, Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover (recording secretary), Frank Allen Philpot, Kammy Sanghera, Claire Snyder-Hall, Hugh Sockett, Karen Studd,

Absent: Cliff Sutton, Carol Urban, Peter Winant

Call to Order

The meeting started at 12:11 p.m.

New Business

Subcommittee Reports

GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING/SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL (Hugh reporting)

CRIM 495 – Synthesis There was disagreement within the committee about whether or not this course met the learning outcomes for this category. Evidence of interdisciplinary aspects were implicit rather than explicit. The full committee voted to return the proposal to the unit for revision, requesting a more explicit explanation of the interdisciplinary aspects and asked for more information on the oral communication learning outcome.

NEW PROPOSALS MOTION

The full committee voted that Marcy can return proposals that do not have an explicit mapping of the learning outcomes in the proposal and syllabus.

Old Business

SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSAL

The authors will be at the Feb. 16 meeting to discuss the proposal with the committee. The committee discussed how this proposal might work: is it a new category or a way of approaching the current curriculum, a path through the general education curriculum?

IT ASSESSMENT

IT assessment will occur this semester, beginning with an information session held earlier in the semester with portfolio submitters. The sessions went well, but some faculty complained that the requirement was redundant and that gen ed sucks the life out of the major.

HOMEWORK – LUMINA FOUNDATION

Rick shared with the committee information from the AAC&U annual meeting. One major topic of conversation this year was the transferability of credit from one institution to another. One viewpoint is that credit hours as they are currently used will be phased out. The Lumina Foundation is at the forefront of this discussion. Marcy will share handouts at the next meeting. Rick wants the group to review the materials and discuss whether or not we could reshape gen ed at Mason along Lumina's guidelines. To do so would change how we handle assessment. A financial model would have to be included in any revamp in order to be actionable. There was some discussion about which came

first the finances or the model; Rick Davis recommends a model that changes the financial approach. The Lumina model is competency based.

SYLLABUS REVIEW

The committee voted that Rick and Marcy can do the syllabus review.

DISCUSSION ON LARGE CLASSES, CLASSROOM ISSUES

The committee has requested a discussion on large class sizes. How do you assess courses that rely heavily on multiple choice exams? Rick is analyzing D/F/W rates – are some courses too large to function; if so, what is the cut off number?

FOR NEXT TIME

Sustainability proposal

Study abroad proposal

Multiple choice and large class sizes

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.