

General Education Advisory Committee – January 25, 2008

Ethics / Citizenship Working Group

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Key Issues:

- Need additional group members, particularly a content expert. Several potentials have been identified; Dr. James will be extending invitation to join the group.
- Still more questions than answers.
- Need to establish essential components of the topic. Terms that emerged from the general working group were: Responsible citizenship; Civic engagement; Leadership; Teamwork; Sustainability; Personal responsibility; Self awareness; Academic integrity; This seems to be too expansive; a content expert could help with focus
- Essentials:
 - agreed-upon core standards, regardless of discipline: what basic knowledge and skill sets need to be present in ALL graduates?
 - discipline-specific efforts: addresses pedagogy – how do you teach, present ethics, develop competency?
 - Problem-based learning
 - Case studies
 - Professional codes of ethics

Institutional objective:

Students should be prepared to make thoughtful judgments about difficult moral and ethical issues, engage meaningfully in their communities, and become responsible citizens.

The institution should develop the necessary structures to coordinate and integrate individual civic engagement and service learning initiatives into a shared vision for social and personal responsibility.

General Ethics:

Students should have thorough competence in the ability to make informed and principled choices when presented with conflicting situations in their personal and professional lives, and to foresee the consequences of these choices.