

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
October 19, 2007

Attendees:

Dave James, Chair / Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Andrew Bell, Associate Dean, Liberal Arts
Caryn Bellomo, Chair, Faculty Senate Gen. Ed. Committee
Daniel Cook, Assist. Prof. / Mechanical Engineering
Maria Raquel Casas, Associate Prof. of History
Rohan Dalpatadu, Assoc. Prof / Mathematical Sciences
Tim Gauthier, Assistant Dean / University College
Jeff Jablonski, Associate Prof. of English / Assist. Director of General Education
Steve Miller, Chair/Prof. of Economics
Young, Martha, Professor / Curriculum and Instructions

Guests:

Jennifer Fabbi, Head / Curriculum Materials Library
Jean Henry, Assoc. Prof. / Health Promotion
Vicki Holmes, Director English Language Center
Patricia (Pat) Markos, Chair / Assoc. Prof. of Counselor Education
Kelly Mays, Assoc. Professor / English
Ed Nagelhout, Assist. Professor / English

SUMMARY:

- 1) Open Meeting / Continental Breakfast – 9:00 AM**
- 2) Welcome to New Members and Introductions – *Dave James***
 - HANDOUT: “General Education Advisory Committee”
 - HANDOUT: “Friends of General Education Reform”
 - Send any corrections to these handouts to janet.gustafson@unlv.edu
- 3) Review of Today’s Agenda – Any additional items or suggestions? – *All***
 - No changes to the agenda
- 4) Advisory Committee Meeting Calendar for this Academic Year - *Dave***

FRIDAY MEETING DATES

Date	Location	Time
11/09/2007	SU 224	9:00-10:30 AM
12/14/2007	SU 222	9:00-10:30 AM
01/25/2008	SU 222	9:00-10:30 AM
02/22/2008	SU 222	9:00-10:30 AM
03/28/2008	SU 222	9:00-10:30 AM
04/25/2008	SU 222	9:00-10:30 AM
05/09/2008	SU 222	9:00-10:30 AM

5) UNLV Faculty Senate General Education Committee – Carryn Bellomo

- Catalog Revision for 2008-2010
- No requirement or procedural changes; only wording changes
- Send suggested changes in wording to carryn.bellomo@unlv.edu
- ENG 101
 - Working on wording for transfer students
 - Recommended Steve Brown, Director of Composition, be consulted
- List of courses fulfilling Multicultural requirements will be on web and not in the catalog.
- HANDOUT: “Proposed Gen Ed Core, Distribution Changes, and Academic Policies Changes”

6) News from Campus Committee on Teaching and Learning (CCTL)

– Diane VanderPol

- Ms. VanderPol will make her presentation at the Nov. 9, 2007, meeting

7) Open Topics

a) EVP and Provost’s Planning Retreat and Town Hall Meetings – Dave

- HANDOUT: “Notes on General Education from 50-100 Planning Retreat on Sept. 25, 2007”
- Dave James is attending all Town Hall meetings to make sure the Gen Ed voice is heard.
- Encouraged everyone on the Gen Ed Advisory Committee to attend the Town Hall meetings.

b) Deans’ Council on Education Report – Dave

- EPV& P Smatresk has convened working groups to work on challenge questions.
- Andrew Bell – “What is an intentional learner and how do we help students become intentional learners?”
 - Need to unpack the “buzzword”
 - How measure??
 - Steve Miller – “Perhaps it is being able to teach students how to teach themselves and adapt.”

8) VPAA General Education Progress – Goal Numbers are from Gen Ed Strategic Plan

a) GOAL 4: Continue Development of the Interim Core – Dave and Jeff Jablonski

- 1) Summary of Results of the Sept. 7 General Education Retreat
 - HANDOUT: “General Education Retreat 1-Page Summary”

COMMENTS:

- Jeff Jablonski – Bok recommends that alumni be assessed for Gen Ed outcomes.
- Martha Young asked – Can we develop a focus group of alumni, and ask them “How did General Education help or not help them?”

- Jen Fabbi – National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is an instrument that can be used to assess Gen Ed skills, if students are willing to respond.
- Carryn Bellomo – lack of engagement is inherent problem with the Core. It's easy to engage students who love what they are doing.
- Jeff Jablonski – sell students on the habits of mind that we value
- Pat Markos – Gen Ed catalog requirements are intimidating. We don't sell students on the real-world benefits of Gen Ed, or on the excitement of the integrated learning requirements.
- Kelly Mays – Students don't go through Gen Ed requirements progressively because of the way that students live their lives. Would hate to see the current retreat recommendations to become hardened.
- Andrew Bell
 - SIS is not very good at policing the enforcement of Gen Ed courses as prerequisites
 - Only ½ the students see an advisor – they're "winging it"
 - Need to get more input from other constituents who didn't attend the retreat.
- Tim Gauthier – but don't have enough advisors to go around.
- Raquel Casas – can't SIS limit taking of 400-level classes until Gen Ed requirements are fulfilled? (Dave -"Answer is yes. This is done in Engineering through enforcement of admission of all students to pre-engineering, a defined set of lower division courses that must be taken first to qualify for the major, and SIS restrictions that prevent pre-majors from taking upper division courses.")

2) Development of Working Groups to Develop Curricular Recommendations in Major Areas from Retreat – *all*

- HANDOUT: "Draft - Working Group Topical Areas or Themes, Mission, Format, Etc."
- If you wish to volunteer for a Working Group, please email Dr. James (dave.james@unlv.edu) your three preferences.

COMMENTS:

- Martha Young – use the working groups to bring in other people who haven't been involved before.
- Jean Henry – market Gen Ed to faculty and administration – There must be an attitude shift for them too. Need to adopt a "What's in it for me?" approach. Create a market here at UNLV by describing the advantages of Gen Ed reform. If we do a good job of this, then our faculty will be more pleased to adopt reform.
- Martha Young – the UNLV-CCSD program Teach for America brings in student teachers recently graduated from Ivy League schools. Their writing skills are greatly superior to those of UNLV students.

9) Summary of Action Items for this Meeting

10) Adjourn – 10:30 AM

Summary of General Education Strategic Plan Goals

GOAL 1: Continue Communication with NSHE, Administration, Departments, Faculty Senate, Advising council, Registrar, Student Life, graduate and undergraduate students on issues of: Curriculum Development, faculty support and development, academic assessment, transfer and articulation.

GOAL 2: Develop a Plan with resources to assess General Education Learning from freshman to senior years.

GOAL 3: Plan and Implement Writing Across the Curriculum.

GOAL 4: Continue the development of the Interim Core.

GOAL 5: Grants and Fundraising – grants and endowments.