

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Friday, October 3, 2008

Attendees

Dave James, Chair / Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Tim Gauthier, Director, Interdisciplinary Studies / Liberal Arts
Stacey Hardy-Desmond, Field Placement Director / School of Social Work
Chris Heavey, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Vicki Holmes, Director, English Language Center
Jeff Jablonski, Associate Professor of English / Assist. Director of General Education
Dan McCollum, Associate Director of Academic Assessment
Steve Miller, Chair / Professor of Economics
Carl Reiber, Associate Dean, College of Sciences
Karen Strong, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Stephanie Taylor, Graduate Assistant, Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Susan Thompson, Director, International Programs
John (Jack) Young, Professor / Chair of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences
Martha Young, Professor / Curriculum and Instruction

Guests

Patricia Iannuzzi, Dean, University Libraries
Gary Larsen, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, Journalism & Media Studies

Summary

1) 9:00 a.m. - Open Meeting and Introduction of Guests

- a. Dr. Patricia Iannuzzi, Dean of Libraries, Guest
- b. Dr. Gary Larson, Communications Studies, Guest

2) 9:10 a.m. Reviews of:

- a. Today's Agenda - Any additional items or suggestions?
- b. Notes of September 5, 2008 Meeting - Any changes to make?
 - i. Correct spelling of attendee's name is Steve Rowland.

c. HANDOUTS:

1. PE magazine article
2. "October 3, 2008 Meeting Agenda"
3. "September 3, 2008 Meeting Agenda"

3) 9:10 a.m. - Dean Iannuzzi - Her perspectives on developments at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) this summer. She was an AAC&U faculty member at the 2008 Greater Expectations Institute.

a. HANDOUTS:

- i. "Planning Document/Campus conversation on Undergraduate Education Planning – draft"
 - ii. "Strategic Planning & Education Reform at UNLV"
- b. Path forward for UNLV Education Planning - Starting the Campus Conversation
 - c. Roles for the Campus Committees in Moving Forward with Implementing Strategic Plan
 - i. Dean Iannuzzi - The summer institute differs from the Gen Ed draft initiative for a specific action plan. The real issues end up being about culture shift. The reason why there are senior members shifting in the way we teach, and how teaching is

viewed. There is discussion of intentional creation of learning outside of the classroom, and linking together learning experiences.

- d. Planning Session with Carol Schneider
 - i. Looked at the desires of the workforce and professional unions.
 - ii. Focused less on knowledge, and more on how learning opportunities are created.

- e. Assessment
 - i. Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) and Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) - Voluntary System of Accountability
 - ii. CLA is a tool used to show progress. It provides feedback to students throughout their career through a diagnostic test. The President of AAC&U recently revoked her endorsement of the CLA due to the administrative problems that come with the variety of tests forms.
 - iii. Discussion by Committee Members
 - 1. Stacey - What models are there?
 - 2. Dr. Iannuzzi - There are student built e-learning portfolios, so students have learning outcomes. Everyone looks to Indiana University-Purdue University - Indianapolis (IUPUI) as a model.
 - 3. Carl - There is no endpoint. It is always a process. Some faculty want an endpoint, but it will not happen.
 - 4. Dr. Iannuzzi - Many institutions go piece by piece; one aspect at a time.
 - 5. Outcome based curriculum seems to be a challenging goal.
 - 6. Dr. Iannuzzi - It requires a culture shift; it isn't quick. We must bring in the rest of the university; it must be a peer to peer process.
 - 7. Carl - Would it be possible to get speakers from the institute here?

- f. Dean Iannuzzi - Many threads must be woven together, Focus 50 to 100, Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U), etc. Not many people are aware of Gen Ed news, such as Undergraduate iNtegrated Education Vision (UiNLV), etc. The entire faculty needs to own this, not just committees. Gen Ed focused on outcomes. Are there too many strategies and goals? Do we have consensus on whether or not everyone wants these goals? Are we wrong in our approach?
 - i. Discussion by Committee Members
 - 1. Vicki - When is the appropriate time to bring students leadership into the arena? How can we do this?
 - a. Student government
 - b. Honor societies
 - 2. Pat - Greater expectations has a student roundtable.
 - 3. Vicki - I'd like to see that.
 - 4. Tim - We have no student representation. We need students on these committees and we need to stop putting it off. Faculty also need to be involved.
 - 5. Gary - I agree. We need to rhetorically frame the need for this so that faculty participate.
 - 6. Pat - How do you funnel faculty voices into this? How do we frame the conversation?
 - 7. Susan - Town hall meetings would help to get student voices. We need to guide them and make instruments to guide them.
 - 8. Carl - Think about the parents who pay the bill. Parents also need to understand what we are doing.

9. Gary - Taxpayers are interested too. We as scholars haven't been good at that.

4) **9:45 a.m.** - Committee review of draft report, and finalization of outcomes and curricular recommendations.

a. **HANDOUT:**

i. "Combined Working Group Report"

b. Discussion by Committee Members:

i. Steve - This is too long. How do we condense this?

ii. Dr. Iannuzzi - Dave can come in and do highlights of the Gen Ed committee, and we can give the audience work to do ahead of time, perhaps reading? That way they can give feedback.

iii. Steve - We need feedback on learning outcomes.

iv. Carl - We need faculty involvement, not just feedback. We need more at meetings.

v. Dr. Iannuzzi - I can bring in the Deans. How do we want Deans to disseminate information?

vi. Gary - Departmental meetings.

vii. Steve - The Deans can decide what to include. What do we want feedback on?

viii. Dr. Iannuzzi - We need conversation, not just presentation.

ix. Carl - Faculty doesn't use the same vocabulary as we do. We need to frame outcomes so that they understand.

x. Dr. Iannuzzi - Do the departmental chairs have the ability to facilitate a conversation? We must encourage them to come to events.

xi. Stacey - I'm concerned about the psychological message. Objectives aren't clear on whether or not feedback will be used. Some town hall meeting seem this way.

xii. Dr. Iannuzzi - Should we reverse events? Feedback first?

xiii. Chris - The timeline shouldn't undermine the outcome, and it shouldn't be rushed.

xiv. Dr. Iannuzzi - The key word is pause. This is where we are.

5) **Review of Draft Report**

a. Jeff - This is really an outline of the possible report. The new version has background for people outside of the process.

b. Vicki - The timeline is useful.

c. Jeff - We are trying to condense the recommendations section. Goals and outcome without rational? We need a common vocabulary for assessment outcomes.

d. Dan - Clusters of outcomes, objectives more goals based.

e. Jeff - We separated goals and outcomes. We didn't look at student responsibility. It is too long.

f. Steve - The view was that everyone can look and see where they fit in. It helps with faculty buy in, and better teaching.

g. Chris - We need shorter lists.

h. Jeff - The communications list could be shortened. Do we want critical thinking at a subset, or in its own category? Communication could be a subset. Rethink main categories; possibly add a foundational skills category.

i. Steve - The relationship to research should be the main part of the information subcommittee.

j. Chris - Not research, but maybe critical thinking?

k. Does every department do research?

l. Chris - Is the general goal to foster a plan that all departments can participate in? Shouldn't have a philosophy that all instructors can teach everything equally well.

- m. Jeff - General Ed is soft skills that can be used in any context; it exposes students to thinking about problems in different ways.
- n. Dave - We need to spend more time on this draft. Should we reschedule Neal?
- o. Susan - Maybe Neal can comment.
- p. Jeff - Should we form a subcommittee to work on this draft?
- q. Dave - I will send this out and try to get volunteers to revise it for Nov. 7 review.

6) 10:30 a.m. Adjourn