

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, May 9, 2008

Attendees:

Dave James, Chair / Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Bea Babbitt, Director of Academic Assessment
Stephen Caplan, Professor of Music
Daniel Cook, Assistant Professor / Mechanical Engineering
Janet Gustafson, Program Officer / Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Stacey Hardy-Desmond, Associate Prof. in Residence / Social Work
Chris Heavey, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Vicki Holmes, Director / English Language Center
Jeff Jablonski, Associate Prof. of English / Assist. Director of General Education
Patricia Markos, Associate Professor of Counselor Education
Kelly Mays, Associate Professor / English
Steve Miller, Chair / Professor of Economics
Ed Nagelhout, Assistant Professor / English
Steve Rowland, Professor of Geology
Susan Thompson, Director / International Programs
Martha Young, Professor / Curriculum and Instruction

SUMMARY:

1) Open Meeting and Light Refreshments - 9:00 AM

2) Review of Today's Agenda – Any Additional items or suggestions?

- No changes or additions to the agenda.

3) Review of Notes of Meeting of April 25, 2008 – Any changes to notes?

- No changes or additions to the notes.
- **HANDOUT:** “April 25, 3008 - Meeting Summary”

4) Working Group Discussion – Review of rationales, outcomes, draft curricula, and proposed administrative / structural changes needed for Gen Ed reform at UNLV

- Develop an overall rationale for the General Education curriculum to answer the big question “What do we hope to accomplish?”

HANDOUTS:

1. “The Essential Learning Outcomes”, *College Learning for the New Global Century*, Liberal Education and Americas Promise (LEAP) National Leadership Council
2. “Current Learning Outcomes of the UNLV General Education Core Curriculum”
3. “Standard Two: Educational Program and Its Effectiveness” Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
4. “Focus 50-100 Strategic Plan, Part 2: Education”
5. “General Education”
 - Nevada System of Higher Education Core Requirements
 - UNLV's General Education Core Requirements
6. “Note Card Summary from Session I - UNLV General Education Retreat”

- There is un-evenness in how language is used in the papers generated by the four areas. Language should be shaped so that the style will be consistent in each area's descriptions of proposed:
 - a. outcomes
 - b. curricula and
 - c. administrative measures needed to stimulate reform.

HANDOUTS: Working Group (Subcommittee) Proposals

1. "Global-Multicultural Subcommittee"
 2. "Ethics and Civic Engagement Subcommittee"
 3. "Communications"
 4. "Information Subcommittee"
- Consider how we can get the current academic units to break out of "territoriality" and instead embrace Gen Ed as a campus-wide responsibility.
 - Prompt faculty teaching Gen Ed courses to think carefully about their outcomes.
 - If recommendations are made for co-curricular activities to attain some of the outcomes, we will need very specific structured objectives for those activities, and tie them to assessment.
 - Information literacy outcomes for General Education could encourage or require changes in current required science course to require research, so that it addresses research competencies.
 - How can Gen Ed outcomes be attained on campus? Perhaps need an organized Gen Ed program that "owns" and delivers the outcomes for the entire campus.

5) Synopsis of Action Items for This Meeting – Dave

- Good points were made about the need to develop an overall rationale for Gen Ed reform and find ways to break faculty out of territoriality and obtain campus-wide "ownership" of the General Education curriculum.
- Activity will continue over the summer that will further UNLV's General Education reform process.
 - Seven Gen Ed Advisory committee members (Caryn Bellomo, Bea Babbitt, Tim Gauthier, Stacey Hardy-Desmond, Chris Heavey, Jeff Jablonski, Dave James), will attend the AAC&U General Education Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I think that our participation in this Institute will be very helpful for us to:
 - Develop a "big picture" of what we're trying to do with Gen Ed at UNLV.
 - Develop initial plans for continuing the reform process at UNLV.
 - See how other institutions are proceeding with General Education curriculum reform.
 - After we return, we will produce a briefing document for the Gen Ed Advisory committee on what took place at the Institute. This will be presented at our first meeting in Fall 2008 on Friday, September 5, 2008 in SU 213.
 - A small group will also work over the summer to make consistent the language used in the four working group reports and present this to the committee in Fall 2008.

6) Review of Meeting Times and Locations for 2008-2009 - Dave

- **HANDOUT:** "General Education Advisory Committee Schedule 2008-2009"

7) Adjourn - 10:30 AM

***If anyone has ideas, comments or suggestions about the next steps that you think we should take for General Education reform at UNLV, please feel free to communicate them to me (dave.james@unlv.edu), Jeff Jablonski (Jeffrey.jablonski@unlv.edu) or the entire committee.