

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
Friday, September 5, 2008

Attendees:

Dave James, Chair / Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs
Bea Babbitt, Director of Academic Assessment
Daniel Cook, Assistant Professor / Mechanical Engineering
Jennifer Fabbi, Special Assistant to Dean of Libraries
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
Jeff Jablonski, Associate Prof. of English / Assist. Director of General Education
Dan McCollum, Associate Director of Academic Assessment
Steve Miller, Chair / Professor of Economics
Ed Nagelhout, Associate Professor / English
Carl Reiber, Associate Dean, College of Sciences
Steve Roland, Professor of Geology
Karen Strong, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Stephanie Taylor, Graduate Assistant, Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
John (Jack) Young, Professor / Chair of Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences
Martha Young, Professor / Curriculum and Instruction

Guest:

Ann McDonough, Dean, Academic Success Center and University College

Summary

- 1) 9:00 am- Open Meeting and Introduction of New Members and Guests
 - a) *New member* – Dan McCollum – Associate Director of Academic Assessment
 - b) *Guest* – Ann McDonough – Dean, Academic Success Center and University College
 - c) *New member* – Carl Reiber – Associate Dean/Sciences
 - d) *New member* – Karen Strong – Associate Vice President, Student Affairs

- 2) 9:10 am
 - a) Review of Today's Agenda – Any Additional items or suggestions?
 - No changes or additions to the agenda.
 - **HANDOUTS:**
 1. "September 5, 2008 Meeting Agenda"
 2. "Proposed General Education Advisory Committee Calendar for Academic Year 2008-2009"

 - b) Review of Notes of Meeting of May 9, 2008
 - No changes or additions to the notes.
 - **HANDOUT:** "May 9, 2008 – Meeting Summary"

- 3) 9:15 am – AAC&U Greater Expectations Institute Overview
 - Those who attended AAC&U Greater Expectations Institute discussed their experiences, and shared strategies for reform.

- **HANDOUTS:**
 1. “UNLV AAC&U Institutes – Undergraduate Education Reform Executive Summary – Prepared for President’s Action Planning Meeting - July 28, 2008”
 2. “AAC&U UiNLV Action Plan”
 - a) Overview by Ann McDonough
 - Workshops on assessment, arriving at goals, modifying goals, and reaching goals.
 - UiNLV- Undergraduate iNtegrated Learning Vision.
 - i. Discussion of UiNLV and Focus 50 to 100.
 1. UiNLV gleaned from Focus 50 to 100 and distilled for ease of use.
 2. Several members mentioned asking the Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Smatresk, how UiNLV would fit in with requirements and changes for undergraduate education.
 - b) Discussion by Committee Members
 - Bea Babbitt – The main emphasis of Greater Expectations was to get all groups that are interested in change coordinated into one process.
 - Chris Heavey – Need to figure out which parts of UiNLV “fit” in the Gen Ed/Undergrad Ed responsibility area.
- 4) 9: 45 am – AAC&U General Education Institute Overview
- **HANDOUTS:** “2008 AAC&U General Education Institute Summary”
 - a) Overview by Jeff Jablonski
 1. Faculty consultations – met with schools in similar situations.
 2. Critical message – transparency in development by the Gen Ed committee is essential, it may take longer, but the end product will be sounder.
 3. Discussion of budget issues in the context of Gen Ed.
 4. Emphasis on the need to know and analyze student’s goals (two-year students in particular) in order to understand the current drop-out rate.
 5. One workshop Jeff attended asked the question, “What would two UNLV alumni talk about if they met X years after graduation? What would they remember as significant about their UNLV educational experience?”
What’s unique about UNLV?
 - b) Discussion by Gen Ed Institute Participants
 1. Tim Gauthier – Need to identify and communicate with the stakeholders.
 2. Jeff Jablonski – Role of task force is to facilitate change, not impose it.
 3. Chris – Try to come up with a coherent mission statement for UNLV.
 4. Tim – Electronic capstone workshop is interesting.
 5. Stacey – Experiential learning is of value. Gen Ed Institute workshop experiences validated her thoughts.
 6. Bea – Better to think of undergraduate education as a whole; group “jelled” when we made this switch. This would be an effective approach in terms of engaging with the campus.
 7. Carryn – You have to know who your students are. We should analyze our incoming students, even if they leave after 2 years. Is that what they wanted?
 8. Carl – Ann Ferren stated that we need to make the best of what we have and keep moving.

- c) Discussion of Statewide Articulation as it Affects Gen Ed.
 - 1. Jeff – AAC&U has an articulation initiative that we could join. Several state systems attended AAC&U Gen Ed.
 - 2. Trend towards statewide articulation still in nascent stage; UNLV has an opportunity to be an early adapter.
 - 3. UNLV needs to make sure that not only do course descriptions match, but that learning outcomes also correspond.
 - 4. How to preserve individuality in the face of articulation?

- 5) Discussion on What to Do Next as a Committee
 - a) Steve Miller mentioned that the College of Business is evaluating its entire curriculum because of an upcoming AACSB accreditation visit, so now is the time to discuss the new outcomes with them.
 - b) Jen Fabbi – Do a quick poll to find out ...? [ask Jen to complete this thought]
 - c) Chris – Discussion on the importance of including all colleges in Gen Ed conclusions, and how to address worries over losing FTE.
 - 1. Need to find a Hotel Management representative. Dave will do this.
 - d) Carl – Communications is the problem. Look at how education model is delivered, in terms of communication.
 - e) General feeling in the committee that more communication is needed with the campus community, and soon.
 - f) For October – Adjust the proposed agenda for the committee to meet to refine the draft outcomes from May 2008, and prepare them for distribution.
 - g) Jen – Distribute these outcomes with a message that we followed a defined process of generating the outcomes.
 - h) Steve – Post the outcomes to make them available to the larger community.
 - i) Carryn – Go to all of Faculty Senate. Maybe ask them to co-sponsor an Open Forum and invite all faculty to attend.
 - j) Jeff – There’s a need to coordinate all the planning initiatives. Ask the Executive Vice President & Provost if his education planning team will serve this function.

- 6) Action Items from the meeting. The committee requested that the chair:
 - a) Invite who is active in the College of Business accreditation effort to attend an upcoming meeting. Steve Miller will provide Dr. James with this person’s name.
 - b) Invite Dr. Smatresk to an upcoming meeting to discuss what he plans to do with education reform. Tell him that we promise “no budget questions”.
 - c) Adjust meeting schedule so that October 3 is mainly committee time to discuss adjustments to outcomes and plans for introducing the results of the past year’s efforts to the University community.
 - d) Develop “Talking points” – suggested by Carl.
 - e) Meeting schedule be adjusted. – Tim suggested that we avoid the last week of the semester, as most people get too busy. Move May 8, 2009 meeting to May 1, 2009. May not be possible to move December 5 meeting, as Dec. 12 is too late, Nov. 28 is Thanksgiving Family Day, and Nov. 21 is too early after Nov 7.

- 7) Adjourn – 10:30 am