

## **General Education Committee: Agenda**

Thursday, October 8, 2015  
3:00 pm Smith Conference Room

**Voting Members Present:** Mark Brown, *Mathematics*; Nancy Damron, *Education*; Elizabeth George, *History*; Brad King, *Health & Exercise Science*; Scott Koeneman, *Behavioral Science & Counseling*; Dave Wegley, *Business*

**Non-voting Members Present:** Mark Hayse, *Christian Ministry & Formation/Honor's Program*; Lauren Hays, *Learning Commons*; Janell Kellum, *Registrar*

**Call to Order – Welcome – Prayer** by Dr. Cindy Peterson at 3:10 pm

**Old Business:** Approved minutes of September 17, 2015 meeting (available in folder on Moodle).

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

No proposals

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Discussed using the committee as the official “Learning Dimension” group for the First Year Experience initiative. A couple of members are involved in other dimension groups and will be “excused” from some activities to tend to their roles. As the research phase gets started, a couple of new people will be asked to participate (a student and other faculty member).

The committee was in favor of this method – rather than creating a new group for this effort.

2. As a follow-up to the last meeting of pursuing a broad concept for gen ed; identity; outcomes (documents in folder), the group’s consensus was to work collaboratively with the FOE initiative. Both sides informing the other to seek the most effective general core direction. While the committee wants efficiency and transferability – the overwhelming desire is for the core to reflect the transformative nature of Christ-centered education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century student.

To that end, some suggestions/observations were made:

- Most students and many faculty can’t articulate why the general core is important or how it is connected to the a student’s larger life and career goals. We haven’t done a good job of telling students how their gen ed classes are holistically integrated (or should be). This is supported somewhat by the data from Pat Walsh (NSSE/FSSE).
- We need to think more outside the classical silos of knowledge/outcomes. Students make connections to knowledge through experience, based on what they need to “survive” life after college.
- This generation and the next have no definite “markers” that let them know they are/have transitioned to adulthood. (See attached non-scientific poll of students.)
- When thinking about the gen ed outcomes, use 4 or 5 overarching or essential questions that are simple, repeatable, and measureable. This sounds like a return to the past and the Man With.....gen ed categories.

Easy to articulate and allows for more experiential meeting of the outcomes.

- Interesting contradiction on the non-scientific faculty gen ed survey of 2012.
  - The responses to Q1 (*What should a general education curriculum accomplish at a Christian liberal arts university?*) were similar between courses and experience. For example, 17 respondents indicated Bible and Christian Belief classes were essential; while 21 respondents indicated broader categories of spiritual/Christian formation was essential.
  - However, the response to Q2 (*What do students need to know to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?*) had only 6 respondents in the “course” categories and 16 in the Christian/spiritual formation categories.
  - It appears that knowledge alone doesn’t meet the standard the faculty wants for 21<sup>st</sup> Century education.
- What does the survey tell us about our outcomes and the direction we need to pursue? The faculty ranked technical skills/knowledge and global emphasis as important and in need of attention.

3. The next meeting will continue the dialog with input from the FOE side of the house.

**New Business? No new business**

**Adjournment @ 4:15 pm**

Next Meeting: November 5, 2015 3:00 pm