Gen Ed Committee Meeting

March 31, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Graduate School Conference Room

Present: Sue McLarry (NHP); Bill Humphrey (AG); Josie Welsh Assessment); Chris Harper (proxy for Marci Hayes - COM); Tom Adams (ED); Dale Miller (FA); Jerry Ball (HSS); David Levenbach (HSS); Phyllis Pobst (HSS); Tim Norman (Military Science); Tanja McKay (SCOM); Chris Collins (Secretary – AAR)

Absent: Lynita Cooksey (AVCAA); Dan Marburger (BUS); Rick Clifft (ENGR); Rebecca Oliver (Honors); Jeff Jenness (SCOM); Jill Simons (University College)

Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Sue McLarry, Chair of Gen Ed Committee.

Minutes were reviewed by committee. Motion was made by Tom Adams to approve minutes as is. Second was made by Tim Norman. Motion carried, minutes approved.

**Gen Ed Website**

The General Education Course Review document, Goals/Outcomes and ACTS Requirements are to be on the Gen Ed Website by the end of the term.

English Comp I, English Comp II and Critical Thinking courses are to be reviewed by fall on the GE Course Review document.

**ACT 747**

If a student transfers with an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Arts in Teaching we cannot require more than 35 general education core unless it is a degree requirement (i.e. History Degree – requires World History and U.S. History). This passed and has to be in compliance by August 15, 2013.

Common course numbering needs to be in compliance by July 2013.

If anyone wants to review this Act 747 they can go to the Arkansas Legislative General Assembly website/88th General Assembly – House Bill 1772/Act 747, Sponsor Roebuck, then view the Bill.

**Assessment**

Josie Welsh discussed ETS Proficiency Profile Test Results with the committee. Critical Thinking/Writing (Assessment Academy)

A study by OSLO found that the constructs measured by the ETS reflect the constructs indicated by our general education goals and outcomes. Thus, we are measuring what we value.

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March 31, 2011

Page 2

Discussed the book “Academically Adrift” and noted the following trends:

* Higher education is expected to be more accessible, affordable and accountable (Spellings Commission)
* Higher education is expected to increase enrollment and graduation rates (President Obama)
* Critical thinking scores have dropped over the past three decades

Higher education is being scrutinized by funding agencies – In September 2010 Financial Aid debt passed credit card debt.

ETS Proficiency Profile - Overall assessment of large groups (not for individual assessment and placement).

Proficiency Profile measures Critical Thinking, Reading, Writing and Math (ETS)

At ASU, we scored between the 46-49%ile compared to national norms; yet, about 98% of students are not proficient in Critical Thinking. These proficiency rates in critical thinking mirror national trends.

Charge to GE committee - Recommendation to AAR based on this information by end of this semester.

Josie commented - Future opportunity with new HLC accreditation format – It’s Your Dream – campus to try something (3 years to do it) and it wouldn’t count against the university if it didn’t work.

Chris Harper asked Josie to look at similar schools of what they are doing whenever she can get to this as related to the “It’s Your Dream.”

Committee decided to meet every week for the rest of the semester. Next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Graduate School Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Collins

Assistant to AVCAS