

General Education Program Assessment
Steering Committee
Minutes
December 2, 2016

Members Present

David Cordle (Provost and VP for Academic Affairs)

Brent Thomas (Dean LA&S)

Rich Sleezer (Associate Dean of LA&S and Director of the General Education Program)

JoLanna Kord (Assistant Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment)

1. The August 5, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.
2. Jo and Rich provided an update of the work completed by the 2016 GEAT
 - a. The fall 2016 semester has been dedicated to two distinct areas. As applicable to GE Goal 1 – Core Skills, the group has reviewed the existing evidence of assessment (past 5 years), and reviewed the structure of general education course syllabi to determine the alignment of course level student learning outcomes with general education program goals. The GEAT was directed to write an executive summary of findings with drafts due December 15th.
 - b. The assignment for the group in the spring semester was to submit proposals in ways to examine how faculty are embedding GE core skills in their courses to gain an understanding of the depth and breadth of the student learning experience as related to core skills. To date the proposals have been directed toward using faculty interviews and surveys to collect this data. In addition, a proposal was submitted on behalf of the Written Communication GEAT representatives to engage in a collaborative assessment project. This project may be feasible in subsequent years, however a prerequisite to the assessment of individual student assignments across multiple courses is gaining a fundamental understanding of how the written communication core skill is being embedded within the individual courses of the general education curriculum. GEAT will report on these findings in late March with the final report for the GEAT work to be completed in late April allowing enough time to share with the Council on General Education before the end of the spring semester. The final report is to include recommendations to the council on implementing strategies to improve the alignment and structure of the curriculum for GE Goal 1 and to make recommendations for ways to incorporate collaborative goal level assessment practices using course embedded assignments from multiple courses.

3. A group discussion included planning for the AY 2018 GEAT and for the GEAT Multiple-Year Cycle. The group engaged in discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of the work being completed by the AY 2016 GEAT. This reflective dialogue was intended to perpetuate the culture of continuous improvement in all assessment related matters. Topics of discussion included the existing structure of the GEAT, the selection process for the members, identifying the general education goal to be addressed next, and the determination of a cyclical plan that is manageable, sustainable, and informative. The committee will meet in early January to plan and operationalize the details discussed.
4. Open Discussion - None