

General Education Program Assessment
Steering Committee
Minutes
April 22, 2016

Members Present

David Cordle (Provost and VP for Academic Affairs)

Brent Thomas (Dean of 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 April 8, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and confirmed accurate as written.
2. Information and knowledge gained from attendance at the 2016 HLC Annual Conference was shared. The following contexts were discussed:
 - a. Fulfilling the criterion for accreditation (Criterion 3 and 4) as related to expectations for the quality of teaching and learning and the assessment of the general education program.
 - b. Identifying and refining processes for capturing and reporting evidence confirming that continuous quality improvement of the general education program is operationalized through an assessment plan.
 - c. Evaluating the options related to meeting some of the recommendations recognized through the assessment of the institutional processes for assessment of student learning in general education (memorandum). One option being considered related to the Planning and Education contexts was to send a team to the assessment academy in the fall of 2016. It was determined that this could be a potential future option, and that first priorities were to continue the policy and planning activities. It was believed that for where we at in the process that academy attendance wasn't the best option. It was recognized that the education context was highly important and that developing the appropriate infrastructure was a precursor to group learning activities.
3. Two strategies identified, one to pursue a policy (fall 2016) documenting the expectations for faculty involvement in assessment practices and secondly, the implementation of a two-to-three day (forum/workshops/conference) events.
 - a. These events would include assessment breakout sessions where faculty attendees would learn about the plan and ways in which general education assessment are integrated into the teaching and learning functions of the

- institution. Faculty will be compensated for their participation in these events.
- b. These sessions will also be aligned with onboarding of new faculty orientation sessions outlining expectations for assessment and university policy, respectively.
 - c. It was deemed important that these learning sessions be ongoing and would evolve over time to ensure that assessment remains a priority in university operations. These strategies will address the policy and education contexts.
4. It was determined that the role of the Council on General Education will not be expanded to play a significant role in the evaluation of general education assessment efforts. This evaluation work is valued and will be assigned to a new working group (membership and charge is to be developed).
5. Open Discussion
- a. The plan was to reach out to some key individuals who will serve as an opening keynote speaker and to direct learning sessions at the initial forum being held as a late summer event. The focus is to be on student learning and how to be a more effective teacher. The assessment of teaching and learning efforts will be incorporated into the sessions.
 - b. It was mentioned that over time having specific focus areas such as STEM would benefit certain faculty groups and improve efforts in key discipline areas.
 - c. It was determined that the steering committee would continue to work individually to identify key focus areas for upcoming meetings.