

General Education Assessment Committee Meeting #1, Thursday, January 23, 2003

Present: Elise Jorgens (Provost), Raja Aravamathan (Paper Science and Printing), Jennifer Daniels (Mathematics), Linda Delene (Provost's Office), Margaret Dupuis (English), Bassam Harik (Economics), Elaine Jayne (University Libraries), Robert Reck (Marketing), and Paul Solomon (Art). Absent: Lisa Paulius (Physics) and Fred Sitkins (Manufacturing Engineering).

The first meeting of the recently established General Education Assessment Committee was called to order at 10:40AM by Provost Elise Jorgens, who intends to chair the committee as long her schedule permits. Elise opened the meeting and thanked everyone for his or her willingness to assist with this important task. She noted that not everyone could be present at this meeting but it was important to begin consideration of how to shape assessment for the University's general education program. The committee's charge is to recommend an assessment plan for general education to the University Assessment Steering Committee no later than the beginning of May 2003. The goal is to begin some type of general education assessment with the fall semester of the 2003-2004 academic year. Jorgens also noted that a secondary goal will be to begin the process of evaluating the existing general education program and the assessment information will be one part of the program's evaluation.

Elise asked Linda Delene to make a few comments about assessment in general as well as general education assessment. Delene suggested that the general education assessment activities at many institutions divide into three categories: (!) only institution-specific, customized measures on the home campus; (2) some customization of activities with the accompanying use of a commercial instrument; and (3) sole use of a commercial instrument on the campus. After these preliminary comments, materials were distributed for the group's review and consideration. Materials included the formal statement of the University's General Education program, a summary of some general education assessment activities at other state universities, samples of the California Critical Thinking Test, and copies of the University of Missouri's CBASE instrument. Only one copy of the ACT's CAAP instrument was released by the published and Meg Dupuis volunteered to examine that instrument. Also available were a few copies of ETS's long and short instrument forms for the *Academic Profile, Assessing General Education* instrument. **(PLEASE NOTE: The ETS instruments are available in the Provost's Office for review by committee members for only ten days due to ETS limitations.)**

After the materials were distributed, there was a general discussion of some items of interest to various committee members including the perceived poor status of the general education program on campus, the role of COGE in reviewing courses in terms of stated area criteria, the need to first define student learning objectives for the general education program, and the need to examine the information literacy of our students in general. Elise closed the meeting at 11:45 AM by indicating that the Committee would meet about every two weeks initially, and at a set time to be established with the assistance of Tracey Henry in the Provost's office.