

General Education Assessment Committee Meeting #2, Tuesday, February 25, 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), Lisa Paulius (Physics), Robert Reck (Marketing), and Craig Tollini, (GSAC). Absent: Fred Sitkins (Manufacturing Engineering) and Paul Solomon (Art).

Provost Elise Jorgens called the second meeting of the General Education Assessment Committee to order at 3:00 PM. After introducing Craig Tollini who has joined the committee as the GSAC representative, Jorgens advised the group that her schedule no longer permitted her to chair the Committee although she will attend when possible. Elise asked Linda Delene to chair the group in the interim and advised that Delene was talking with a faculty member who may be able to become Committee chair.

Meg Dupuis presented the report from herself and Georgina Hill, the English Department's Director of Composition, on the *Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency* (CAAP) offered by ACT. The instrument can be used as either an outcomes measure or as a measure of group change and assesses academic achievement in reading, writing, mathematics, science reasoning, and critical thinking. Nine locally developed questions may be added to the test. ACT does the scoring of multiple-choice questions while the writing test may be scored by ACT or locally. Costs vary with institutional size, the number of students tested and range from \$9 to \$17 per student depending on the number of tests taken. Meg and Georgina recommend against selection of the CAAP test, as they found the material not challenging and unsuitable for university-level students. They think that there are more desirable alternatives available, for example, *The California Critical Thinking Skills Test*.

Discussion then turned to the issue of determining student learning objectives for each of the eight areas of general education. The group worked through sample learning objectives for areas I, II, and III and then Delene asked individuals to develop the other areas individually and send them to her for compilation by March 10, 2003. After the draft objectives are compiled, they will be sent to all members of the Committee for review. Subsequently, the draft learning objectives will be reviewed by some faculty who teach in each of the eight areas before final adoption by the Committee. These adopted learning objectives will be the basis for the measurement of general education outcomes, which will not be done on a course-level basis due to the range of courses and faculty involved.

Meetings for the remainder of the spring semester were established from 3:00 to 4:00 PM on March 13, March 27 and April 10 in Conference Room A. **[Please Note: since Paul Solomon teaches from 3 to 4 PM on those dates, the last two meeting dates will be changed to insure that Paul can be present. Please bring calendars to the March 13 meeting.]** The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.