

General Education Assessment Committee
Meeting #9, October 17, 2003
Room 5302 - Friedman Hall

Present: Raja Aravamuthan (Paper Science and Printing/COGE), Linda Delene (Planning and Assessment, Provost's Office), Elaine Anderson Jayne (University Libraries), Bassam Harik (Economics), Lisa Paulius, (Physics), Matthew Steel (Music), Heidi Vogley (Speech Pathology and Audiology), and Carol Weideman (HPER). Absent: Margaret Dupuis (English), Gina Garza-Kling (Mathematics), Robert Reck, (Marketing), Fred Sitkins (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), and Craig Tollini (GSAC). Guest: Jim Gilchrist (College of Arts and Sciences).

Delene called the ninth meeting of the General Education Assessment Committee to order at 1:30 PM, asking for approval of the 9/19/03 summary note. Upon motion by Paulius and seconded by Harik, the note was unanimously approved. Heidi Vogley was introduced as a committee member replacement for Mike Clark, also from Speech Pathology and Audiology. Jim Gilchrist provided the Committee with an update on the progress for the "areas" assessment within the General Education program. Gilchrist reported that he is meeting with faculty in departments who teach courses in Areas I and II, and with faculty responsible for courses in Areas III and IV, also to prepare them for general education area assessment participation during the spring semester. Jim noted that participation by instructors in those meetings was good, that the learning outcomes seemed acceptable, and that instructors appreciate the reporting structure. There are some difficulties in gaining participation by part-time faculty, which is probably inevitable given their relationship to the University. The form currently used for general education areas assessment is located on the web at: www.wmich.edu/poapa/GEA/GenEdAssmtReportForm.pdf and Gilchrist indicated he would make a link from the Arts and Sciences web page directly to that form. Delene expressed the Committee's appreciation for the leadership role Gilchrist has taken with this endeavor.

Delene reported that 607 useable answer sheets from the early September freshman administration of *CBase* have been sent for scoring, the results of which will be available no later than mid-November. Scoring by majors will not be possible due to lack of information provided by students. The comparative group of research I schools includes fourteen universities, for example, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Jackson State University, Washington University, St. Louis University, Clemson, the University of Memphis, and Ball State University. Delene asked the committee to begin consideration of "research" questions that should be included with the seniors' assessment scheduled for early January 2004, and that this issue will be placed on the Committee's November agenda.

The Committee then considered how to determine which senior level courses could be used for the *CBase* senior level assessment in early January. It was agreed that members of the Committee would identify senior level courses within each college along with the approximate course enrollment and forward that information to Delene as soon as possible. Using the five-year data from the Registrar's office on the proportion of undergraduate degrees awarded by each college, Aravamuthan will determine the necessary sample size for the January administration of *CBase* to seniors. Reports from undergraduate students contacted by committee members about participation incentives for students to do their best work indicated strong support for as many gift certificates (especially for food) as possible. Also, it was reported that students are interested in learning their own individual scores from such assessments. Delene will pursue the option of individual scoring for January's *CBase* administration with the University of Missouri.

Paulius agreed to chair a small subcommittee of DuPuis, Aravamuthan, and Weideman to draft a change in COGE's role statement to include general education assessment responsibility along with a rationale for this to present at the Committee's next meeting. The purpose of this proposed change is to assure that the assessment of general education becomes institutionalized into the faculty governance system, rather than contained solely within an ad-hoc committee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING: 1:30 – 3:00 PM, Friday, November 21, 2003