

General Education Assessment Committee
Meeting #12 - April 2, 2004
Room 5302 - Friedman Hall

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

The 12th meeting of the General Education Assessment Committee began at 2:00 PM with the review, one correction, and subsequent approval of the 1/30/04 summary note of the Committee. Delene advised the Committee that a large portion of the annual meeting of the Higher Learning Commission (formerly known as the North Central Association) had presentations on the assessment of general education programs. With the ongoing resource constraints in higher education nationally, many questions are being raised about the success and outcomes of general education. She had selected six articles from the many presentations, with a request that colleagues on the committee review these for discussion at the next meeting. Delene made special reference to the first two of the documents, and their possible relationship in terms of the assessment-related SIS products. TracDat and the iWebFolio elements of SIS support both assessment and accreditation requirements and should be considered in refining general education assessment plans. The summary of the SIS products will be sent electronically to all Committee members for their reference. With these developments, Delene requested that each member of the Committee think carefully about how to continue to proceed with the assessment and review of the General Education program. It was agreed that the May meeting would be devoted to a review of pertinent ideas from the six articles along with the formulation of recommendations for general education assessment to the Faculty Senate and the provost. [PLEASE NOTE: That meeting has been scheduled for 10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 12 in room 1030 of the Fetzer Center.]

R. Aravamuthan then updated the Committee on COGE's consideration of the changes in their draft charge that would incorporate assessment findings review into their work. Concern was expressed about COGE assuming responsibility for the administration and preparation of analytical reports about the assessment of general education. Delene responded that this was not the intention, but rather than COGE would be the first reviewers of assessment findings and serve as a main interpreter of such findings in order to determine how to continuously strengthen general education at the University. Aravamuthan indicated that COGE would consider the revision to its charge at its next meeting and seek further clarification if necessary from the Senate Executive Board.

Progress is being made on the review of Area I and II student learning outcomes with assistance from a faculty colleague in English. Delene advised the Committee that she would use stipends to accomplish the assessment analyses stemming from this year's assessment tasks. A similar approach will be used for the analysis of the CBASE outcomes from the University of Missouri when suitable colleagues have been identified and selected.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM. In appreciation for the Committee's diligence, and after the next meeting, which will be devoted to considering the continuing assessment of general education, an appreciation luncheon will be held for all members of the Committee.

[NEXT MEETING: 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON, Wednesday, May 12, 2004
Room 1030, Fetzer Center with provision of an appreciation luncheon.]