

General Education Assessment Committee
SUMMARY NOTE: Meeting #14 – Friday, October 22, 2004
<http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/GEA>

Present: Roberta Allen (Business Information Systems); Raja Aravamuthan (Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Imaging/COGE); Susan Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness); Margaret Dupuis (English); Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness); James Gilchrist (Arts & Sciences); Bassam Harik (Economics); Gina Garza-Kling (Mathematics); Elaine Jayne (University Libraries); Shavonne Petts (WMU Student Association); Fred Sitkins (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering); Matthew Steel (Music); Heidi Vogley (Speech Pathology and Audiology)
Absent: Lisa Paulius, (Physics); Craig Tollini (GSAC); Carol Weideman (HPER)

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Allen at 1:35 PM

1. R. Allen noted that this was the first meeting since May 12, 2004, and felt it would aid the entire committee to discuss the charge to the committee for this year. She distributed an agenda, 10/8/04 "Point of View" on general education for the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, a copy of the request from Dr. Evans sent to Deans and Chairs on 10/18/04 for Areas 5-8 assessment (and form designed to collect data), the Report on Student Learning Outcomes approved by the General Education Assessment Committee on May 12, 2003, the calendar for assessment 2003-05, and 2004 meeting summaries. In order to clarify the status of the committee she then asked J. Gilchrist and E. Evans to present their perspectives.
2. J. Gilchrist reported that his role with General Education previously has been working with the Provost office directly. He recently supplied Provost Dr. Linda Delene, with some preliminary data regarding the credit hour load for freshman. A meeting has been established with L. Delene, E. Evans and J. Gilchrist to review those figures, which indicate that the fall 2003 Freshman were registered for 13 credit hours in their first semester 90% of those credit hours are in General Education courses. He stated that students would need to average 30.5 credit hours per year/15.25 credit hours per semester in order to graduate in four years. He is proposing that a study be conducted to compare the freshman credit hours vs. grade point average. He feels that there will not be a decline in grade point average when credit hours are increased. Discussion was held regarding these preliminary figures. J. Gilchrist noted that the results of the study will be presented to the committee at a future date.
3. J. Gilchrist indicated that assessment of General Education Areas I, II, III and IV had been completed last year. He and E. Evans have just begun the assessment process for Areas V, VI, VII and VIII. They will be making appointments with the faculty in departments that teach in those areas to review with them the process and form. R. Allen referenced the e-mail that had recently been sent out regarding this topic and asked who collects the data from this assessment process. S. Brodasky responded that all of those materials were in the office of Institutional Effectiveness. Discussion was held regarding the analysis of these results. S. Brodasky was instructed to supply the results from the report conducted by M. Dupuis of the analysis of Areas I and II.
4. E. Evans reviewed with the committee the tie-in of General Education Assessment with the regional accreditation of the University. She indicated that the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association focused visit is planned for November 7 & 8, 2005. During that visit assessment will be one of their two primary areas of interest. She indicated that closer to that visit this committee will be asked to help prepare materials.
5. Questions were raised by committee members regarding the results of the CBase testing that had been conducted last fall along with results of the General Education Area Assessment and how those results will shape general education for WMU. Discussion was held and R. Allen indicated that she will review the data held in the office of Institutional Effectiveness prior to the next committee meeting.

6. COGE representative R. Aravamuthan reported that at the end of the last General Education Committee meeting (then chair), L. Delene had sent a request to the COGE asking that committee to take the lead in General Education Assessment. COGE discussed the request and noted that they lack the authority and resources to carry out that charge. Hence they will not accept the request made. Discussion was held. R. Aravamuthan also noted that his seat on the General Education Assessment Committee has been as COGE representative because he was Chair of COGE. With that position now being held by S. Caulfield he will inquire if she would rather fill his seat or have him continue his appointment to the General Education Assessment Committee.
7. S. Petts, attending as a representative of the Western Student Association, has developed a student survey regarding general education courses and requested committee review; the results of the survey would be provided to the committee. R. Allen will e-mail a copy of the survey to the committee members for their input and noted that more discussion was necessary.
8. R. Allen summed up the meeting by reiterating the goals for the committee for this year as she sees the meeting had established: To assess the methods and the tools of assessment for general education; to assess summaries of data collected thus far; make recommendations as it indicates to J. Gilchrist, Director of General Education; and provide support as necessary for the Higher Learning Commission focused visit next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Friday, January 21, 2005