

General Education Assessment Committee
SUMMARY NOTE: Meeting #15 – Friday, January 21, 2005
<http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/GEA>

Present: Roberta Allen (Business Information Systems); Susan Brodasky (Institutional Effectiveness); Bassam Harik (Economics); Gina Garza-Kling (Mathematics); Elaine Jayne (University Libraries); Shavonne Petts (WMU Student Association); Lisa Paulius, (Physics); Duncan Purvis (WMU Student Association)

Absent: Raja Aravamuthan (Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Imaging/COGE); Margaret Dupuis (English); Eileen Evans (Institutional Effectiveness); James Gilchrist (Arts & Sciences); Fred Sitkins (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering); Matthew Steel (Music); Heidi Vogley (Speech Pathology and Audiology); Craig Tollini (GSAC); Carol Weideman (HPER)

The meeting was called to order by Chair, R. Allen at 1:36 PM

1. There was a motion to approve the committee summary notes from meeting #14. Motion seconded and approved.
2. R. Allen opened discussion of the original charge included in the summary notes from meeting #13. It was acknowledged by the committee that it will carry them through this academic year. A question was raised regarding the contents of correspondence between Dr. Delene and Susan Caulfield regarding COGE assuming responsibilities for the general education assessment process.
3. R. Allen provided the committee the General Education Assessment Area I and Area II summaries developed by M. Dupuis. She noted that M. Dupuis reported that overall faculty felt not one essay was sufficient. Discussion was held. S. Brodasky reported that E. Evans was in the process of retaining a faculty member to conduct the analysis of Area III and Area IV. She also reported that faculty is in the process of turning in Area V and Area VI reports while assessment is underway this semester for Area VII and Area VIII.
4. R. Allen handed out the CBase reports. Discussion ensued regarding the means for each category, sample of students, and validity of measures. The committee noted that the results of the CBase data underscore WMU's need to carefully choose a General Education instrument. L. Paulius noted that there is also a need for sampling correctly. The value of these results will be an agenda item for the next committee meeting. The committee was charged to review the results and be prepared to discuss in depth at the next meeting. S. Brodasky was asked to provide the breakdown of students that had taken the CBase test to committee members as soon as possible.
5. S. Brodasky reported that The California Critical Thinking Skills Test had been administered during Fall 2004 semester to 415 freshmen in ENG 105, 92 in BCM 142 and 96 in IME 102 totaling 603 students. Also, underway during the Spring 2005 semester it is estimated that 182 seniors will be tested in Arts and Sciences, 21 in Aviation, 190 in Business, 163 in Education, 51 in Engineering, 24 in EUP courses, 33 in Fine Arts, and 36 in Health and Human Services for a estimated total of 700 students. Discussion was held regarding the sampling composite. B. Harik reported that the senior courses selected was a proportionate representation across colleges.
6. S. Brodasky reported that E. Evans was unable to attend due to a request by the Provost for her attendance at another meeting, and noted her apologies. In her absence S. Brodasky gave her report noting that E. Evans and L. Delene had recently returned from a visit to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) office in Chicago. At that visit they learned that the HLC will issue a new handbook of accreditation at or before the annual meeting (April 8-12). In terms of assessment of student learning outcomes, the emphasis will be on what fruit the assessment processes have borne rather than the processes themselves. Gone are the matrix and levels of institutional assessment practice.

The focused visit team will evaluate the adequacy of addressing issues, for example: A) Are processes in place to ensure coordination of planning and assessment? B) Is there documentation for evidence of what students are learning and using results for program development, curriculum, and instruction?

The provost envisions a focused visit report of approximately 20-30 pages, which the HLC Steering committee will begin meeting to formulate later this month.

7. S. Brodasky reported that J. Gilchrist was unable to attend due to his required attendance at another meeting, and noted his apologies. S. Brodasky gave his report noting that on February 14th all registrations will be through the gowmu.wmich.edu portal. Log in requires a BroncoNet ID and password. Phone registration has been turned off but will be available to student for billing information until mid-April. Students will register day-by-day rather than hour-by-hour. WSU does not have time ticketing. The repeat policy, duplicate checking, time conflict checking, course restriction checking, and co-requisite checking are enforced upon registration. There will be four digit course numbers, adding a zero to the end of all current course number. Availability will be 24 by 61/2 – off line on Sunday until noon for maintenance. WIN will replace social security numbers as the primary student identifier.
8. Nikki Postma from WSA was introduced to give the power point presentation of the results for the student survey they conducted. S. Petts will supply the power point presentation to S. Brodasky who will in turn supply it to all the committee members. R. Allen suggested that WSA also provide this presentation to COGE.
9. S. Brodasky was asked to ensure that all the results from the California Critical Thinking Skills Testing are available at the next committee meeting. Also, to request a cleaner, easier to read copy of the CBase results.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM by chair R. Allen.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 18, 2005 - 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Room 3030 Schneider was requested.