

General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2016 at 2 p.m. in the CME Conference Room

Present: Noel Wilkin, Lee Cohen, James Reid, Jon Moen, Stephen Monroe, Danielle Ammeter, Robert Cummings, Kate Kellum, Mindy Sutton, Jason Ritchie, Ginny Chavis, Nancy Wiggers

Absent: Deborah Mower, Maurice Eftink

Meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. Discussion centered on the following topics:

1. Summary of General Education Assessment and Update on Mapping Gen Ed Outcomes to Courses in the Majors (Kate Kellum)

Kate reported that our mapping project will begin this spring. She discussed the weaknesses of the former ETS proficiency profile and the strengths of our current course-embedded assessment process. She offered thoughts on probable developments in SACS-COC guidelines.

2. Progress Report on Plan to Improve Teaching & Assessment of Oral Communication (Bob Cummings)

Bob reported that planned improvements are underway, including a modest expansion of traditional speech sections. The DWR is also leading the development of a 1-hour speech course that emphasizes digital communication. They have partnered with Outreach to purchase a software product that will enable such teaching and learning approach.

3. Update on QEP Topic Selection Process (Monroe)

Stephen provided an overview of the QEP Topic Selection process, now underway. He encouraged the committee to submit ideas for topics and to support the process. The committee discussed ways in which the previous QEP strengthened general education and the ways in which the next QEP might do the same.

4. APLU/Gates Foundation Grant Update – Expanding Use of Adaptive Courseware in Gen Ed (O’Sullivan)

Stephen introduced Patti O’Sullivan, new program manager for the APLU/Gates grant that will increase the use of adaptive courseware in many general education courses. Patti gave an overview of the plans. Patti is only in her first week on the job but is off to a very fast start. Drs. Cohen and Wilkin offered their encouragement and support.

5. Discussion of Future General Education Reform – Committee Reading (Monroe)

Stephen asked the committee to read *General Education Transformed* by Paul Gaston before the next meeting, which will be held on 8 December. This AAC&U publication might generate ideas for general education changes in the coming years on our own campus.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.