**GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**

**Minutes**

**October 23, 2012**

**Nevins 1060C**

**2 pm**

**Members in Attendance:** John Gaston, Brian Gerber, Sheri Gravett, Jane Kinney, James LaPlant

**Guests:** Michael Black, Brian Haugabrook

The General Education Council discussed the following items:

1. The Core Curriculum Assessment Retreat in September: Approximately 35 faculty, department heads, other administrators, and General Education Council members participated in this retreat on Friday, September 21, 2012. (See Appendix A for complete list). After a discussion of good assessment practices and the current assessment activities at VSU, participants worked together by core area groups (A, C, D, and E) to share their current assessment plans. In the spring, the GEC plans to meet with representatives from each core area at one of its meetings.

After the retreat, departments were asked to confirm their core assessment rotation. The following departments have already confirmed their planned schedule: Biology, Chemistry, Economics, English, History, Mathematics and Computer Science, Modern and Classical Languages, and Political Science.

Confirmations are still needed from the following departments: African American Studies; Art; Communication Arts; Music; Perspectives; Philosophy and Religious Studies; Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences; Psychology; Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice; and Women’s and Gender Studies.

1. Brian Haugabrook joined with GEC members to discuss technology options for assessment data input and retrieval. Currently, the GEC maintains a BlazeVIEW site. Departments prepare and submit hard copies of their General Education Worksheets (which detail their assessment plans) and their General Education Feedback Reports (which present their data, analysis, and possible action steps). Once submitted to the GEC, these reports are stored as PDFs in BlazeVIEW. Members of the GEC, department heads, and faculty who maintain core assessment are all enrolled in the site and can view this information.

The GEC wanted to explore further options of ways to submit, view, and maintain the data. Members wanted the submission process to be as easy as possible for departments but they also wanted to be able to view and use the data more efficiently. Possible options discussed included the assessment option in Digital Measures, the assessment portal created at VSU several years ago, or a new custom-built solution:

Digital Measures: While DM has the capability to store and build reports, it may not have the capability to tabulate assessment results across a core area . Savannah State is using this software, so we could get further feedback from colleagues at that institution.

VSU’s old assessment portal: In the past, this portal proved to be too inaccessible and cumbersome for most departments to use effectively.

Custom-built solution: An in-house portal could be built both to meet our current needs and could be altered as needed over time. However, it would take some time to build.

Any of these options would have to assure that data was easy to input for departments and that that data was also easy to retrieve in different formats—for a course in the core (ENGL 1102, MATH 1111, etc.), for a core area (A, B, C, D or E), or for the entire core. It would also have to be stored in a password-protected site.

After discussion, the GEC decided that it would like to try and move forward with a custom-built solution, particularly for the feedback reports. For spring 2013, departments will continue to submit their data via the Word document but their results could be entered into a database. Perhaps over time, this solution could continue to grow to help meet the needs of not only the GEC feedback reports but for the reporting on all assessment feedback via the IERs and IEPs.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

* Fall 2012 Assessment Workshops on November 9 (handout)
* Reminder to submit institutional effectiveness reports and plans. Submission rate is now 53.7%. UAC is beginning its review of IE documents.
* Core Matters Conference: November 8-9 <http://ww2.valdosta.edu/corematters/> Early Bird Registration is still available.
* General Education and Assessment: A Sea Change in Student Learning conference, Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 2013, Boston, sponsored by AAC&U (handout)
* Institute on General Education and Assessment, June 1-5, 2013, Vermont, sponsored by AAC&U (handout)
* Carnegie Engaged Institution application (information)

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Tuesday, November 27, at 2 p.m. in Nevins 1060C. Please come prepared to discuss the meeting schedule with the core area groups in spring 2013.

**APPENDIX A**

ASSESSMENT RETREAT PARTICIPANTS (on sign-in sheets)

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Michael Black, Karla Hull

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES: Calvin Walker

ART: Brad Finson, Blake Pearce

BIOLOGY: Teresa Doscher, Tim Fort

CHEMISTRY: Jim Baxter, Linda de la Garza

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: Connie Richards

COMMUNICATION ARTS: Deborah Robson

ECONOMICS: Attila Cseh

ENGLISH: Rick Carpenter, Darrell Fike, Mark Smith

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL: Sheri Gravett, Jane Kinney, Gayle Taylor

HISTORY: Dixie Haggard, Jay Rickman, Paul Riggs

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE: Vickie Graham, Janice Lowe

MCL: Fleming Bell, Viki Soady

MUSIC: Doug Farwell, Tod Leavitt

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES: Fred Downing, Lavonna Lovern

PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY, AND GEOSCIENCES: Ed Chatelain, Can Denizman

POLITICAL SCIENCE: Jim Peterson

PSYCHOLOGY: Deb Briihl, Jackson Rainer

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY: Carl Hand, Darrell Ross