Gen Ed Committee Meeting 8-27-14

In attendance: Kristyn Quimby, Haiyan Yin, Lyle Zynda, Gwen Mettetal, Henry Scott, Lesley Walker, Linda Chen, Nancy Colborn, Jennifer Muniz

The committee has an Oncourse site. Proposals are discussed on Forums.

Two main duties:
Decide on faculty proposals and student petitions (for instance: a transfer student took a course that he/she wants to count for our visual literacy requirement, and we decide whether to accept the appeal or not)

Tended to be 2/3 yes and 1/3 no.

We meet once monthly.
Proposals are vetted online.

Lyle managed putting proposals and sites, other co-chair (Leslie) handled communication with faculty about proposals

Nancy and Henry will be co-chairs this year (2014-2015)

Lyle and Justin can't make this time

Linda has two proposals

We have to be strict about having only one pathway for proposals, and they have to receive a response.

It must be submitted electronically.

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A majority of committee members need to approve proposals.
We can post comments and vote in the forum. Subject line should have last name and vote

We will be contacted when a proposal was posted.

When there were many appeals, we would have groups of three looking at 5 appeals.

Some requirements are school-specific and others are campus-wide. There are business gen eds that just happen to be campus-wide

Cc Linda and cc chair of dept. Co -chair and advisor, recorder. (One co-chair manages info, other acts as secretary)

Need student ID number.

Linda gets approved proposals to post on website

Appeals should have students' last name in subject line
Linda wants to look at gen ed curriculum, this curric is 10 years old. We need to re-vamp, and perhaps form a sub-committee that could put forth something to the senate.

Do they meet needs?
Now we have first year seminars, etc
Look at other programs around country

Report from our committee to the Senate.
We are making a call to re-examine curriculum

(We get bogged down by nuts-and-bolts, and need to think of larger picture)

How to deal with transfer students, that's one third of the student population

Changes in faculty: where are our expertise?
Unfortunately, not so many focus on non-western (that term is outdated)
Look at health and wellness
Do we need all of the literacies?

Gwen-- we need to figure out a way to assess gen ed.
Coming from top down is too heavy-handed.
But alternatives can be too time-consuming.
We need to be systematic.
This committee should be part of that.

There are things like standardized tests for critical thinking, etc...

We did have discussion last year about FYS.
Gwen will bring ideas to next meeting about assessment.

We need to get on agenda of senate
The more we involve the faculty as a whole, the better.

Let's ask executive committee: what's the best way to proceed?

Ten years is a nice time to re-evaluate. We had waited for exec vice chancellor to be in place.

What questions could we have? Some of us go to exec committee
What would be good to look at in terms of reviewing the gen ed?

Let's invite Jan to next meeting.

We could come up with what is working
What is consistently coming in for student appeals. Is there a theme?

Students wanted to bring in courses that were not interdisciplinary.

Health and wellness came up with red cross CPR.

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Ask each dept, what's working, what isn't?

Other universities have a plan of getting gen ed done in first two years.

One area that doesn't do that is arts.

Idea is that the general education classes should be a starting point, and should be built upon.

Advisors try, and sometimes students can't.

We need to be flexible for our students. It's hard to negotiate the different needs.

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Contemporary social values
In original report, that was supposed to change over time. It hasn't.

Service learning is now big
First year seminar

We can't add more.

Fund literacies is very traditional.
Linda likes common core (innovative, it's interdisciplinary)
However, we are not developing new courses in visual literacy.

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Are there standard readings in reference to gen ed revisions?
ACU has nice summaries on this

The LEAP outcomes were re-done

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Linda- we have external pressures
We were asked to do degree maps.
Quantitative rubrics to evaluate senior artifacts

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Committee discussed some left over course apps issues from last semester. New chairs will follow up with faculty member.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon