

Gen Ed Council Area B Meeting April 7, 2009

Present: Kent Moore, James LaPlant, Byron Brown, Sheri Gravett, John Gaston

Absent: Jane Kinney, Kristina Cragg, Anita Hufft, Brian Gerber

1. Area B Discussion: Syllabus Review

S. Gravett opened the meeting by asking the council if anything noteworthy stood out on the PERS syllabi that the council reviewed. Discussion ensued and the following tasks were presented:

- Create a template of what a PERS syllabus needs to contain and have it on the PERS website before the end of the spring 2009 semester.
- Prepare a generalized statement that will be in every PERS syllabus of what a PERS course is, how it differs from a 3 credit hour course, and what each student can expect from it.
- The syllabi should contain specifics on how the course covers both regional and global issues, as well as how the course matter is related to Gen Ed Outcomes. The syllabi should also make clear what disciplines are included in the course, since PERS courses are interdisciplinary by design.
- Each syllabus should make clear that Perspectives Courses are General Education courses, not part of their major.
- J. LaPlant will post on the PERS website general guidelines for faculty who need to write PERS syllabi. It will include, but not require, what's generally expected from a PERS course, plus the average amount of reading and number of assignments (Each course should have multiple grading opportunities before midterm.)
- The Council will contact K. Cragg about the possibility of making a survey for faculty teaching PERS courses within the last two years. The Council will follow her judgment on how to disseminate the survey in order to ensure the highest response rate. Ideas for questions would be:
 - Can this course be both regional and global?
 - Can this course be interdisciplinary?
 - How closely does the class fit the course description?
 - Are there any persistent issues associated with students in PERS courses?
 - What is the appropriate workload for a 2-hour course?
 - What have you done in this course that did or didn't work?

- The PERS Faculty Surveys will be distributed initially at the Core Curriculum Faculty Meeting in the fall.
2. The Core Curriculum Faculty Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 1:30 – 3:30, in the UC Cypress Room. Discussion ensued concerning how many should be invited from each department. It was decided to let the department heads chose core-course departmental leaders who would best be able to share information that they learn at the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting should include

- Organize tables by Outcome
 - Work toward creating an identity for the Core
 - Discuss how various disciplines can contribute
 - Share assessments of Gen Ed Outcomes
 - Recognize the Pilot Project Teams
 - Have table 'leaders' submit short reports on what they've heard at the meeting, what they think about it, what they would need from the GEC to implement what they've discussed.
3. GEC subcommittees – The Council discussed on whether or not to create subcommittees chaired by GEC members with representatives elected from the Core faculty. Subcommittees would cover an area of the Core, Area A-F, and act as an oversight committee. Other subcommittees could help review VSU's 8 Outcomes and possibly rework them. Another need is for a committee to work on curriculum mapping. No decision was made; the matter was tabled for another meeting.
 4. Tasks before the next meeting on April 28 at 9:30 in BC 3026:
 - S. Gravett will write up an agenda for the Core Curriculum meeting
 - J. LaPlant will work on a write up for the PERS website
 5. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

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