GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
187th Meeting  
Thursday, February 24, 2011

MINUTES  
Approved

Present: D. Chakraborty (LAS/PHYS), D. Changnon (Acting Associate Vice Provost), D. Chiros (EDU/Student), B. Coller (EET/MEE), C. Douglass (Assessment/ex-officio), G. Long (Acting Coordinator for General Education), Wei Luo (LAS)

I. There were not enough members in attendance for form a quorum. As such, the business of the Committee could not be completed.

II. Announcements

There were no announcements.

III. General Education Coordinator’s Report

A. Baccalaureate Review Retreat. Long reported that the final retreat report was recently sent to Provost Alden. A follow-up meeting with the Provost is scheduled for March 1. It is expected that Vice Provost Seaver, Acting Associate Vice Provost Changnon, General Education Chair Klonoski, Assessment Services Director Carolinda Douglass, and Acting GE Coordinator Long will participate in this meeting.

B. Assessment Data. Long and Douglass discussed the Alumni survey as a source of data. There are several questions that ask respondents to rate how well their education at NIU taught them to write well, communicate orally, etc. Concerns were raised regarding the survey’s low response rate, indirect nature of the data, and overall representativeness of the sample.

Long noted that he met with the Student Advisory Committee on Learning Outcomes (SACLO) and asked for their assistance. This semester, they will likely work with Long to review syllabi collected from general education courses as well as discuss how accreditation guidelines shape curricula. In the fall, they have offered to assist leading focus group with other students regarding perceptions of general education and baccalaureate education overall.

Professor Gordon (COB) also agreed to assist with focus groups by involving students from marketing classes. Long also said that he would contact colleagues in the various NIU Presidential Commissions to seek additional support for focus groups and a diverse pool of leaders and participants in the focus groups.

C. Communication. Long will meet with Brian Brim later this week to discuss the status of the general education distribution list being developed. Long showed the committee members the initial development version of the GEC web page. He will send a link to the GEC members to request feedback. It is expected that this review and any subsequent changes will be complete by mid-March when the site will be posted on the NIU website. The site will contain information on general education goals, assessment expectations, policies and procedures,
general education history, selected readings, as well as copies of syllabi and course descriptions. The GEC emphasized that it will be important to post model reports and assessment practices to provide examples for faculty to follow. In addition, it was also suggested that the GEC use Blackboard or similar limited-access repository to keep confidential documents or reviews in progress. Approved submissions and resubmissions would be posted on the GEC web page.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30.

The next meeting will be March 24, 2011, 12:30, AL 225.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Long, Acting Coordinator for General Education.