

AD HOC GEN ED: Tues. Jan. 19, 3-4:30, 033 Propst Hall

PRESENT:

Wells
Beers
Nance
Vann
Clapp
Marshall
Bains
Mayfield
Biggio

RSVP ABSENT:

Fournier
Dobbins
Petrella

AGENDA:

- A. Mission
- B. Committee Extension
- C. Summer Reading Groups
- D. Timeline
- E. (forgotten and added by Bains: HISTORY)

A. MISSION? What is success?

BEERS: articulate purpose, how do we know if it's achieved

MARSHALL: Problem with catalog p. 24 which says Core/Gen-Ed are foundation of major

BAINS: articulate goals/clarify purpose. means of assessment.

MAYFIELD: what is purpose of course, how do its content and methodology interact with the curriculum

NANCE: courses may stand alone, but they need to stand for something

CONSENSUS: clear purpose of Gen Ed courses and a way to know if it is being achieved.

B. COMMITTEE EXTENSION

CONSENSUS: The current membership is adequate, focused on schools granting undergraduate degrees. Trying to create proportional membership would be too complicated. Adding more to the 11 members would make the group unwieldy.

C. SUMMER READING GROUPS: Process: Representation, Application, Purpose

CLAPP: committee members work with other community members to read about theories and models of general education

NANCE: including more people could get things complicated

BAINS: "Potholes" document encourages engaging stakeholders

MAYFIELD: simplicity

VANN: What is role of student life? Interaction in community?

D. TIMELINE: SUGGESTIONS:

- Process: develop governance, assessment timeline, development
- Students
- Provost Hopes
 1. Entropy: diffusion of purpose (no criticism of Gen Ed or TLA by SACS)
 2. High Impact Practices (creative, thematic, interdisciplinary)
 3. Co-Curricular Activities?
 4. Class Size: higher student-faculty [DCC: conflict with best practices?]
 5. Room for Jan-Term?
- Deans/Chairs
- Student Life

WELLS: a committee member should attend focus groups

BAINS: “marks” (not mark) of an educated person. “components” (not field or areas) of General Education. Surveys should be responses to something specific.

E. HISTORY:

CLAPP: 1989 Gen Ed Study Group, 1991-1994 Cornerstone, 1997 Co-Nexus

VANN: grants funded Cornerstone, it was successful, but admin said the 3.5 million dollars was too expensive. Uncertain that Cornerstone would have been successful with average Samford student.

MAYFIELD:

Summer 1995: retreat to turn Cornerstone into an affordable university-wide curriculum. Mayfield proposed Columbia model, and the Cornerstone initiative was replaced by the Co-Nexus with CP as the effort to recapture liberal education grounded in cultural literacy.

General Education was added as a 200-level, introduction to the major defined by approaches and methodology, not by discipline.

Before first catalog printing, Gen Ed has become a broad multiple choice.

WELLS: Provost effort to remove untaught courses from the Catalog. UCC worked to reduce course duplication.