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September 3, 2009 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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General Studies Council Minutes
September 3, 2009 Meeting – 3:30pm.
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
Approved via email 9/22/09

Present: Vijay Agrawal, Sylvia Asay, Debbie Bridges, Mary Daake, Tommy Eshleman, Tommy Hansen, Ralph Hanson, Sherri Harms, Daryl Kelley, Sonja Kropp, Carol Lilly, Kristi Milks, Darleen Mitchell, Jan Moore, Marta Moorman, Kim Schipporeit, Daren Snider, Ron Wirtz

Absent:

I. Call to Order:

Director Snider called the meeting to order at 3:30

II. Open Items:

a. "Framework" Learning Outcomes for Faculty Input:

Snider will continue presenting informational sessions to the campus about preparing courses for the new GS program. Not all of the learning outcomes are approved yet; faculty will be asked to give input on the outcomes in September. The Council will meet in two weeks to review faculty comments and revise the outcomes accordingly.

b. New GS approval process

Lilly registered a protest that the Council did not meet during the summer after the faculty vote to discuss the GS program before Snider met with SVC Bicak. She asked why the GSC was not informed of meetings with SVC Bicak, nor of what took place in those meetings. Snider responded that the council voted at the 4/30/09 meeting to have Hanson analyze the data from faculty who voted "no," and to direct Snider to meet with SVC Bicak in the council's behalf in lieu of an additional GSC summer meeting. Snider was directed to present to the SVC the results of the vote and the analyzed data, and to answer his questions. Prior to today's meeting, Snider contacted several GSC members to ask if their understanding of the direction that the council had approved on 4/30/09 was as Snider described. Of the 10 members who could be reached (7 voting, 3 non-voting), each of the voting members and two of the non-voting members affirmed that that was their understanding. One non-voting member did not remember either way. Snider further noted that he first met with SVC Bicak on 6/15 at the request of the registrar, who had a scheduled meeting with the SVC. Snider further met at the SVC's request at the deans retreat on 7/22, with the SVC on 7/27, and with the SVC and registrar on 7/31. The director's role at each of these meetings was to provide information and answer questions.

III. New Business:

a. **Stipends and Deadlines:**

Stipends will be paid with the \$15,000 Kelley Grant obtained by Rick Miller and Scott Darveau for developing / teaching modes of inquiry courses. Details are still forthcoming, but team coordinators (who will also be the first to teach the course) are expected to receive \$1,000 and other members \$500.

IV. Announcements:

a. **CTE Events Supporting the New General Studies:**

CTE will be hosting an event in October focusing on teaching critical thinking. Other events will support faculty's preparation for teaching in the new GS program.

V. Other:

Faculty at the information session for CBT had several questions about the new program, for which Snider asked the council for clarification.

1) Are the new portal courses perceived to be at the 100 level courses?
Yes.

2) How will courses be evaluated for inclusion in a specific GS category?

Courses will be evaluated on the basis of learning outcomes. For purposes of assessment, GS courses must meet at a minimum one of category and one of the program outcomes. Snider will send the council the course guidelines that were developed last year to help focus the process of evaluating proposed courses.

3) The capstone courses include two disciplines that are not closely related. How is that defined? In most cases, "not closely related" disciplines would refer to disciplines in different departments. In the case of some multiple-discipline departments (such as Sociology, Geography & Earth Science), "not closely related" disciplines may exist within the same department.

Lilly asked whether Democracy courses count in more than one category (i.e. Democracy and Social Sciences)?

No, each GS course can only be in one category.

The Council asked Snider to send faculty the learning outcomes for all categories, but to clearly mark outcomes that had already been approved. Faculty should be given two weeks to consider the outcomes and send comments to the GSC.

VI. Announcements:

Minutes from the 2008-09 special sessions and regular meetings are on the GS website.

VII. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday September 17, 2009 3:30pm, Warner Conference Room, FNDH 1000.