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University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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General Studies Council Minutes
March 25, 2009 Meeting – 8:00 am.
Founders Hall 2147
***** Approved via email 4/3/09 *****

Present: Sylvia Asay, Marta Moorman, Tommy Eshleman, Sherri Harms, Kelly Hoff, Sonja Kropp, Carol Lilly, David Rozema, Daren Snider, Ron Wirtz, Mary Daake, John Anderson, Tommy Hansen, Deb Bridges

Absent: Darleen Mitchell, Vijay Agrawal, Kim Schipporeit, Laurence Hilton

Guest: SVC Charlie Bicak

I. Call to Order:

Director Snider called the meeting to order at 8:00 and there was a quorum.

II. Open Items: SVC Bicak articulated three components to creating a strong General Studies program:

1. It should serve students well
2. We should seek to create a sense of ownership across campus
3. We must follow NCA accreditation requirements

He complimented the addition of the portal course and capstone course, in part as a response to NCA requirements. He asked about concerns at this point and the Council identified two: having one discipline in its own category (history), and the lack of maximum credit hours that students could take in each of the given distribution categories (i.e. Natural Sciences, etc.)

Wirtz brought a draft that proposed a fourth Skill category titled “Democracy in Perspective.”

Snider presented the Council with information on the history of having maximum limits on the distribution categories, as informed by Daake. He asked the Council to consider adding caps in each category, and to specify that in each category students must take courses from at least two disciplines.

Wirtz/Anderson moved to approve the document to send to campus for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10am.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 2, 2009 3:30pm, Warner Conference Room, FNDH 1000.