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February 2006 General Studies Council Minutes

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Recommended Citation

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council, "February 2006 General Studies Council Minutes" (2006). *General Education Council*. 183.
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University of Nebraska at Kearney

General Studies Council

Minutes of February 2, 2006 Meeting

Present: Glen Powell, Sylvia Asay, Mary Ann Barton, Debbie Bridges, Valerie Cisler, Karin Covalt, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, Brett Haskell, Marta Moorman, David Rozema, Kim Schipporeit, Kenya Taylor, Vern Volpe

Absent: Mary Daake, Randall Heckman, Linda Spessard-Schueth, Ed Walker

Director of General Studies Glen Powell called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall Room 2122.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2005.

Debbie Bridges (Kuskie) moved to approve the December 1, 2005, minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Inventory of General Education Materials Purchased for GS Council Members:

Director Powell shared an inventory list of resource materials published primarily by the American Association of Colleges and Universities [AACU]. The intended use of the materials will be for Council reading and discussion of liberal education philosophy, curriculum, and curriculum trends.

Powell indicated that he had contacted Faculty Senate President Martha Kruse regarding the collection of materials as resources for possible use by the Roundtable.

The draft document of Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) was distributed to Council members by Powell. This is a major initiative being presented this year by the AACU for guiding liberal education program development over the next decade. Committee members also received copies of the AACU position statement regarding the definition of liberal arts.

2. Progress Report of Fall Semester General Studies Department Assessments:

Powell has been visiting with department chairs or faculty assigned to assessment of General Studies courses during the past two weeks. As of February 2, he had visited with 15 departments. He reported to the Council that 13 of the 15 had conducted GS course assessment during the Fall semester. The other two departments are scheduled for GS course assessment during Spring 06 semester. Three departments have scheduled visits with Powell for the week of February 6-10. Only four or five departments have not scheduled or responded to requests for a meeting to review the GS assessment process.

Powell stated that a personal goal of his is to try to play an active role in visiting both deans and department chairs regarding GS and the visits in regard to assessment are the first step in initiating that process.

Powell made the observation that departments offering bachelors degrees, masters degrees, and General Studies courses are at a level of assessment saturation. This problem will need to be addressed over time.

C.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Phase II of General Studies Roundtable Participation:

Powell has visited with Martha Kruse, Faculty Senate President, and Finnie Murray, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Life, regarding his memo on behalf of General Studies Council participation in Phase II of the Roundtable process. A number of governance issues have been discussed. The one element that is known is that the Council will participate in some way. The degree of participation of the Council has not been determined.

2. Complete updating of General Studies Council Governance Document:

During the discussions between Powell, Kruse and Murray regarding issues raised by the General Studies Council about its participation in the governance process, a number of gray areas have emerged regarding how to address the development and ratification of a General Studies program that may be fundamentally different from the existing program.

The Senior Vice Chancellor has requested that the Council develop an additional governance process describing the Council's role and the ratification process as it works on continued review of its governance document. Powell stated that because of the Roundtable schedule, it needs to be developed before conducting the Council's other work that we have scheduled.

The remainder of the session was devoted to discussing the process and the Council's role, as well as long-standing concerns about how the preceding academic program review recommendations and current assessment fit into the current overall process of the Roundtables.

3. Revised General Studies Strategic Plan for APR and Assessment:

Handout distributed and item postponed due to lack of time.

4. Continued discussion of General Studies courses on-line:

Item postponed due to lack of time.

E.

F. OTHER:

1. Introduction of New Members:

Powell introduced two new members of the GS Council. Sylvia Asay will finish out the term of Peg Camp as a representative of the College of Business and Technology, and Dave Rozema will finish out the term of Marguerite Tassi as a representative of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities.

G.

H. NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m. The next General Studies working session will be Tuesday, February 14, 2006, in Founders Hall, Room 2122, at 3:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled General Studies Conference meeting will be on Thursday, March 2, 2006, in Founders Hall, Room 2122, at 3:30 p.m.