

Minutes
General Education Forum
3:00 pm, Sept 29, 2009
CCC 419

Present: Richard Hock (Career Technical Education - CTE), Nina Demarkey (Social Science-SS), Barbara Kashi (Language Arts-LA), Bryan Seiling (SS), Michael Klyde (CTE), Nancy Deutsch (Staff Development), Susana Jianto (Business/CIS), Joyce Patti (Fine Arts), James Dedic (SS), Kathleen Lianos (LA), Renay Laguana (Counseling), Patricia Dellinger (BUS/CIS), Randy Martinez (SS), Randa Wahbe (LA), Michael Brydges (LA), Nobuko Sugamoto (LA), Jesse Saldana (BUS/CIS), Ron Armale (Science Engineering Math - SEM), David Nusbaum (SEM), Alison Robertson (LA), Becky Floyd (SS), Gloria Badal (SS), David McCament (Health Science - HS), Ben Izadi (BUS/CIS), Parwinder Sidhu (SS), Stacey Howard (Counseling), Brandy Young (SS), Sarah Jaffray (Fine Arts), Joyce Carrigan (Fine Arts), Marty Orozco (CTE), Beth Piburn (HS), Mike Kasler (President), Richard Fee (SEM), Bill Pinkham (PE), Santanu Bandyopadhyay (Research)

- **Nancy Deutsch gave an interactive presentation going over the following topics:**
 - Expected Outcomes of Forum
 - Understanding the options for General Education assessment.
 - Forming a General Education SLO Team
 - General Education Experience
 - Participants were asked to have a group discussion and highlight their common GE college experiences.
 - Most groups indicated that GE helped them to develop their foundational skills in math, writing, and communication. One group indicated that GE courses helped them to find their majors.
 - What is our students' General Education experience
 - Basic Skills Pathway
 - Degree Pathway
 - Career Certificate Pathway
 - Lifelong Learning Pathway
 - Distance Learning Pathway
 - Comments by faculty members:
 - ❖ Students come to the orientation and they are encouraged to take COUN 140 to help them plan their education.
 - ❖ In the CTE division they usually take their technical courses first before the GE courses, and do not have the proper foundational skills.
 - ❖ A lot of our students come to our College unprepared so it takes them more years to graduate.
 - ❖ 75% to 85% of our students go through the pre-collegiate English and Math pathways.
 - ❖ I was surprised how many ENGL 58 and ENGL 60 students are taking other courses.
 - ❖ Lack of pre-requisites is allowing ESL students to register for courses without proper background.
 - ❖ We need to identify the hidden pathways that students are taking.

- Examples of GE and Program Assessment Strategies
 - Cabrillo College
 - ❖ 6-Step Method for Assessing Core Competencies
 - Green River Community College
 - ❖ Critical Thinking Common Rubric
 - Mt. San Antonio College
 - ❖ General Education Outcomes at Mt. SAC: Plan 2009-2012
- What are the other colleges doing?
 - Broad SLO competencies are assessed every year.
 - Different courses are assessed every year.
 - The decisions Cypress has to make:
 - ❖ Do we want campus-wide assessments?
 - ❖ Do we want to use course level SLOs for assessment?
 - ❖ The decision-making process must be documented and a clear justification articulated.
- Recommendations for GE SLO Team
 - Define General Education SLOs,
 - Set plan and timeline for assessing and reporting results of General Education SLO process,
 - Need one team member from each instructional and student services division,

➤ **Dialogue**

- Do we need to assess all of our GE courses?
- It is up to the GE committee to decide what courses should be assessed for the GE program,
- We need to first identify why some courses are qualified to be GE,
- It seems that the best approach is to start with ILOs and see if our courses map to those ILOs,
- We have already mapped all of our courses to the ILOs. This information is available on an Excel worksheet,
- Shouldn't we have started with the GE SLOs rather than course SLOs?
- If I had known my GE SLOs, I might have done my course SLOs differently.
- How are other colleges doing it? Is it a top-down approach?
- Different colleges have started the SLO process from different levels. We decided to start from the ILO level, then courses, and now the programs.
- On the course level we are assessing the SLOs and coming up with action plans. How about on the program level? Do we really need to assess on the program level also? Can we just connect the dots?
- It would be great if we can come up with a standard rubric to assess "writing" across campus, using a rubric that is based on assessing the content not the grammar or presentation.
- A lot of our students do not know how to write, even though they are passing the career technical courses! Can we evaluate their work based on writing skills as well as technical skills?
- Unless you have ENGL 100 as a pre-requisite, you cannot fail students based on poor writing skills.

- We had students in Health Science who had passed ENGL 100 but still have problems with basic writing skills in our courses.
 - It appears that there is a lack of communication between the departments/divisions here. Students go through our pre-requisite English courses and complete them successfully. Yet the same students have problems in grammar and basic writing skills when they take their career technical courses. We really need to discuss this issue across campus.
 - I am glad this forum is initiating some cross-campus dialogue. I am sure issues similar to what we discussed today exist in other GE areas.
- **Committee Selection**
- The following people volunteered for the GE SLO Committee or committed to finding someone from their division to serve on the committee.
 - Language Arts
 - ❖ Barbara Kashi - volunteered
 - ❖ Alison Robertson - volunteered
 - ❖ Randa Wahbe - volunteered
 - CTE
 - ❖ Lisa Clark (nominated)
 - ❖ Richard Hock (nominated)
 - Social Science
 - ❖ Bryan Seiling - volunteered
 - ❖ Brandy Young - volunteered
 - ❖ Nina Demarkey (might attend)
 - Fine Arts
 - ❖ Sarah Jaffray (will identify a rep)
 - Counseling
 - ❖ Renay Laguana (nominated)
 - ❖ Stacey Howard (nominated)
 - SEM
 - ❖ Richard Fee - volunteered
 - HS
 - ❖ Dave McCament (will identify a rep)
 - BUS/CIS
 - ❖ Susan Jianto (primary)
 - ❖ Jesse Saldana (alternate)
 - PE
 - ❖ Bill Pinkham - volunteered
 - SLO Core Team
 - ❖ Ben Izadi
 - ❖ Nancy Deutsch
 - ❖ Randy Martinez
 - ❖ Santanu Bandyopadhyay
- **Next Meeting**
- Thursday Oct. 15, 2009 from 2 to 4 pm in CCC-419