MINUTES
General Education Committee
August 29, 2013
2:00-3:30pm
Alumni Gallery Seminar Room

Members present: John Blondell (Professor of Theatre Arts), Michelle Hardley (Secretary and Registrar), Wayne Iba (Professor of Computer Science), Tatiana Nazarenko (Chair and Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Debra Quast (Director, Library and Information Services)

Absent: Rick Pointer (Professor of History)

Others present: None

I. Opened with Prayer.

II. The minutes of the April 23, 2013 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

III. Chair election: The election of a department chair will be postponed until our next meeting when Rick is present.

IV. Plans for the 2013-2014 academic year:
   1. Discuss and plan for how we will close the loop with the data we have collected on the Written and Oral Communication component. Could the First Year Seminar (FYS) be a way to do this?
   3. Discussion on the importance of oral communication and developing more courses for this area.
   4. Discussion on critical thinking assessments.
   5. Revise selected pages of the GE Combined Document to decide if changes need to be made.
   6. Approval of new courses as requested.

The committee decided that we should continue discussing modifications to the GE but this would not be a major agenda item unless there seems to be a groundswell of interest on the part of the faculty.
V. **Critical Thinking Assessment: Jim Taylor:** Jim will be the lead assessment specialist for the 2013-2014 school year. He reviewed his assessment team members and the goals of this group for the year. Part of their early discussions will be to accurately define the concept of “critical thinking” and possibly change some of the language in the GE Combined Document and our Institutional Learning Outcomes to reflect a broader definition. They have also enlisted faculty to give two critical thinking tests both in First Year level and in Senior level courses.

VI. **The Results of the 2013 Oral Communication Assessment:** There was a struggle on the assessment team in how to assess oral communication when it did not seem to have a large place in the GE Combined Document (5 lines) when compared to the criteria for Writing Intensive courses. The assessment team spent some time simply discussing what oral communication is and isn’t. It is more than just giving speeches. Maybe our next step in closing the loop really is to make speech more focused on. This could include rewriting the GE Combined Document so that speech is more prominent and there are more courses that can meet this area.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar