General Education Council
Minutes
Friday, November 1st, 2013
1:00-3:00, WH 227

Attendance: Eric Otto, Kris De Welde, Chris Geiger, Greg McManus, Marisa Ouverson, Rachel Cooke, Carrie Kerekes, Anne-Marie Bouché

1. Approve Friday, October 18th, 2013 minutes
   Greg moved to approve, Chris seconded it, motion passed.

2. Music ensembles in General Education
   Trent Brown had asked whether he should put forward a proposal to get performance courses approved as Gen Ed courses. The committee decided we would recommend that he look at the competency descriptions once they are finalized and submit a proposal in the next cycle, if appropriate.

3. Plan for moving ahead on GEP revision
   Kris reported on recent meetings with Departments and the CAS Leadership Team. The concerns raised during these meetings were reported.

   Eric proposed sending out an update to the faculty (1) explaining the parameters and reasons for the Gen Ed revision; (2) describing the current proposal and laying out the reasons and logic behind the proposed competencies and the path leading to them; (3) explaining the pros and cons of including the fourth competency (e.g., additional flexibility; providing accommodation for a wider range of courses). Kris brought in raw data from the Town Hall meetings and the surveys from early in the process; we verified that Global Learning, Civic Identity, Intercultural Understanding and related topics centering on the creation of informed and broad citizens in line with the University’s mission were among the top priorities named by the faculty who contributed.

   The possibility of a faculty referendum or poll was raised; Eric will draft a document.

   The “scientific reasoning” competency idea which was a suggested as a talking point by Eric Otto as a way of meeting concerns coming from the Science department appears, on closer examination, to provide less flexibility for the science students and programs than having Science courses assessed as Critical Thinking. Greg expressed the opinion that from a scientist point of view, scientific reasoning is essentially critical thinking.

   Eric will draft an informational letter and a draft survey.
4. Discussion of GEP model will be tabled until we get results (by next meeting).

5. Adjournment 3 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, November 15\textsuperscript{th}, 2013, 1:00-3:00, WH 227