

University of Nebraska at Kearney
General Studies Council
Minutes of the September 7, 2006 Meeting
Founders Hall, Room 2147
APPROVED 10/5/06

Present: Daren Snider, Bethany Albrecht, John Anderson, Sylvia Asay, Mary Ann Barton, Kyle Bowers, Debbie Bridges, Jeanne Butler, Valerie Cisler, Karin Covalt, Mary Daake, Tommy Hansen, Laurence Hilton, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, Carol Lomicky, Marta Moorman, David Rozema, Kim Schipporeit, Linda Spessard-Schueth, and Vern Volpe

Absent: Brooke McGee

I. Call to Order

Interim Director of General Studies Daren Snider called the meeting to order on September 7th at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall Room 2147.

II. Roll call.

Upon reviewing the roll call, only one member who was absent due to a family matter. Director Snider thanked everyone for their being present.

III. Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2006 meeting.

After review of the minutes by the Council, Barton moved to approve the minutes of the August 17 meeting of the Council as presented; motion seconded by Hilton. Upon vote taken, approval was unanimous.

IV. Open issues.

- a. Snider then asked for a motion to suspend the agenda as he wished to address Item III (b) before discussing Item III (a) the Governance Document, draft of 8/17/06. Motion by Bridges to suspend agenda, seconded by Asay.

Upon return to this agenda item, it was moved by Bridges, seconded by Volpe, to table approving the GS Governance Document until the October 5 meeting. This was to allow the Council to consider how the document "Fundamental Changes to GS Programs" relates to the Governance Document, and whether the two should be merged into one.

- b. Snider asked the Council if they wished to incorporate the "Fundamental GS Program Changes" document into the current Governance Document. He suggested a working session on Tuesday, September 19, at 3:30 p.m. to work on finalizing the Governance Document. The Council approved the time for the working session.

- c. **The General Studies Assessment report is due October 1. Jeanne Butler, Director of Assessment, was on hand to discuss the GS Assessment Matrix of Assessment Components and give a brief history of its approval. Dr. Butler and GS Director Bill Wozniak put together a matrix to develop a comprehensive GS assessment plan, which was then presented to the General Studies Council. At that time, the GSC chose several items from the Matrix and those became the core of the GS assessment plan. The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) is being forwarded by some NU Regents and being piloted at UNO and UNL. This instrument assesses critical thinking, problem solving and writing. Since there is not a strong interest in adopting the CLA, Butler's recommendation is to pilot a sample of 100-200 students in beginning and upper-level General Studies courses to assess their abilities in the GS Objectives: gathering information, communication skills, critical thinking, and diversity. The Assessment Office is required to undergo such an alternative to the CLA, and GS can collaborate for purposes of its own assessment plan. Interim Director Snider will be presenting the GSC with a framework of the pilot program in the near future.**

V. New Business

- a. **The need and value of working sessions was discussed by the Council. With the Academic Program Review occurring in Spring 2007, it was decided to have a working session on Tuesday, September 19, at 3:30 p.m. in the Founders Hall, Room 2103.**
- b. **An outside reviewer for the General Studies APR should be selected soon since we must provide names of potential APR team members to the Senior Vice Chancellor by November 1. Obtaining an extension of the APR was discussed, however, postponing it for a year would make it due at approximately the same time as the March 2008 NCA visit.**
- c. **John Anderson, Political Science, distributed a Synopsis of the "American Democracy Project Annual Conference" that he attended July 10, 2006. He felt it was a very worthwhile project for little or no cost, and little expectation placed upon faculty or staff.**
- d. **Vern Volpe asked if meeting the GS course requirements was going to be a problem for the 1+2+1 Program with Chinese universities. Schipporeit reported that at present we have six students here: 4 in business; 1 in biology; and 1 in chemistry. None of the six have passed the TOEFL test as yet and are enrolled in UNK's English Language Institute. Most have met their math and philosophy requirements, but in other areas, GS courses are lacking. UNK is working with these students on getting a schedule set up that will help them get through in about 4.5 years.**

There being no further business to come before the Council, meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:The next General Studies Council regular meeting will be chaired by Daren Snider. It will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2006, in the Warner Conference Room at 3:30 p.m.