

University of Nebraska at Kearney
General Studies Council
Minutes of the November 2, 2006 Meeting
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
Approved 12/7/06

Present: Bethany Albrecht, Sylvia Asay, Mary Ann Barton, Debbie Bridges, Valerie Cisler, Karin Covalt, Mary Daake, Tommy Hansen, Sonja Kropp, Carol Lomicky, David Rozema, Kim Schipporeit, Daren Snider, Linda Spessard-Schueth, and Vern Volpe

Absent: John Anderson, Kyle Bowers, Jeanne Butler, Laurence Hilton, Larry Kuskie, Marta Moorman

I. Call to Order

Interim Director of General Studies Daren Snider called the meeting to order on November 2 at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall 1000, Warner Conference Room.

II. Approval of Minutes of October 5, 2006 meeting.

After review of the minutes by the Council, Cisler/Volpe moved to approve the minutes of the October 5 meeting of the Council as presented; approval was unanimous.

III. Open issues.

a. GSC Priorities and the 2001 APR

Snider distributed the 2001 APR report along with a Proposal for Addressing 2001 APR written by former GS Director Glen Powell. Snider suggested these documents might help determine some priorities before to the next review in spring 2007. Snider noted that several of the APR recommendations have already been addressed (see attached).

There was discussion about Recommendation III.1 of the APR concerning UNK's vision of how best to provide a liberal education to students. The definition of liberal education and general education and where our General Studies program falls was discussed. Rozema observed that "liberal studies" focuses on developing intellectual skills whereas "general education" emphasizes acquiring breadth of knowledge.

APR Recommendation II.3 urges that UNK limit GS class sizes. Volpe questioned if there were a policy regarding this. Registrar Schipporeit said there is no policy in place and departments handle that issue as they see fit. Discussion followed concerning how fiscal limitations affect the ability to limit class sizes. Some departments have small classes but rely heavily on adjunct faculty to teach them.

b. SOWK 170 Proposal

The college Educational Policy committees are reviewing the proposal to move SOWK

170 from “Personal Development” to “Social Perspectives” of General Studies.

IV. Open Issues.

- a. **SVC Comments on Governance Document draft 10-5-06.**
Pursuant to a review of a draft of the Governance Document, SVC Murray posed some questions which Director Snider shared with the Council concerning this work-in-progress. A flowchart was presented to allow GSC members to visualize the proposed process. There will be a work session November 14 for GSC members to consider the SVC’s observations.

- b. **GS Roundtable materials on the GS website.** On the GS website there is now a box called “General Studies Roundtables” to make current information available to all interested faculty. Items posted include the 2001 APR, the 2005 faculty survey, the 2005 student survey, information about changes to NDE Rule 20, and current GS Roundtable notes. In the near future, the 2003 NSSE report will also be posted.

V. Other.

Director Snider asked members for counsel regarding who might be an external reviewer for the 2007 APR of General Studies. Rozema volunteered the name of Prof. James Schall at Georgetown. Bridges suggested also inquiring at the Association of American Colleges and Universities about a possible reviewer. Director Snider will inquire and report back to the Council.

Bridges/Volpe moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS:

A working session of the General Studies Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Room 2147.

The next General Studies Council regular meeting will be Thursday, December 7, Warner Conference Room, FNDH 1000, at 3:30 p.m.