

**General Studies Council
Minutes of the October 4, 2007 Meeting
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
Approved 11/1/07**

Present: Vijay Agrawal, Bethany Albrecht, Sylvia Asay, Debbie Bridges, Karin Covalt, Mary Daake, Tommy Hansen, Laurence Hilton, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Carol Lilly, Marta Moorman, David Rozema, Kim Schipporeit, Daren Snider, Linda Spessard-Schueth, Tim Hruza (student)

Absent: Jeanne Butler, John Anderson, Darleen Mitchell

I. Call to Order

Director Daren Snider called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall 1000, Warner Conference Room.

II. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2007 meeting

Approved without objection.

III. Reports

a) Sylvia Asay and Tuff Hilton reported on their attendance at the April 2007 Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission.

b) CAAP Exam. The critical thinking tests will be administered in randomly selected courses that are heavily enrolled by freshmen and/or seniors beginning next week. Soon after, the essay writing tests will also be administered. All tests will be completed by the end of October and sent to ACT for scoring. ACT will provide UNK with scoring and comparative data by January 2008.

IV. New Business

a) Assessment reports. 100% of departmental assessment reports for GS have been submitted. Some need revision and will be returned to departments with feedback. GSC members will be asked to read 2 or 3 departmental reports each as an assignment. This will help streamline the GS assessment review process and help prepare GSC members for the anticipated meeting(s) of the GSC with NCA representatives during the focused visit in April 2008.

b) Capstone Course Objectives. Motion by Asay / Lillis to approve the new GS Capstone objectives for dissemination and discussion across campus. Discussion of the Capstone category and objectives ensued. A few pilot offerings of Capstone courses using the new objectives will take place in the fall 2008 semester. The pilot offerings will be from interested departments that already have a capstone course in place and are willing to redefine it based on the new objectives and format.

c) Review of GS courses. The *ad hoc* committee on the review of GS courses reported on its initial findings. It recommends a periodic review of GS courses to ensure they are meeting the objectives of GS. Discussion ensued and the recommendations were returned to the *ad hoc* committee for reflection and revision in advance of the November GSC meeting.

d) Academic Standards for GS courses. The *ad hoc* committee on academic standards reported its initial findings. It recommends a set of assessment-based minimal standards for GS course designation. Discussion ensued and the recommendations were returned to the *ad hoc* committee for reflection and revision in advance of the November GSC meeting.

V. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 1, 2007, 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.