1. Moderator Debbie Bridges, Faculty Senate President, introduced the ex-officio members of the Round Table and asked each to address the group.

**FS President Bridges** reminded the group that every member of the Round Table is charged with communicating with constituents and bringing constituents’ ideas to the discussions.

**SVC Finnie Murray** thanked the group for the “courage and willingness to spend time” on this discussion. What we about to undertake is of “immeasurable value” to the institution. Becoming “competent and engaged citizens of the world” is our goal for our students. SVC Murray cautioned against disciplinary territoriality.

**Director of General Studies Bill Wozniak** distributed “Principles of Undergraduate Learning” from Indiana University of Purdue University at Indianapolis. These principles are stated in terms of student outcomes rather than course work. Wozniak reminded us that outcomes must be assessable. He also distributed the “AAC&U [Association of American Colleges and Universities] Statement on Liberal Learning” for our consideration.

**Director of Assessment Glen Powell** reminded the group to focus on outcomes; a discussion of outcomes is the right place to start. “If we can define it, we can measure it.”

**Faculty Senate President-Elect and Recorder Martha Kruse** thanked the group in advance for their patience with her efforts to record the conversation.

Faculty members of the Round Table then introduced themselves:
- COE: Kate Heelan, Deb Brandt, Jane Ziebarth-Bovill, Petula Vaz
- CFAH: Tom Martin, Neal Schnoor, Darleen Mitchell, Herbert Craig (substituting for Daren Snider)
- CBT: Tami Moore, Bev Frickel, Kay Hodge, (Steffen Habermalz absent)
- CNNS: Don Niemann, Scott Darveau, Paula Rieder, Joe Benz

2. **Goals for Phase I:**
   The committee will develop a common set of goals/outcomes of what General Studies should contain (in terms of student outcomes) and also how these will dovetail into the respective majors and UNK’s mission. Bridges reminded the committee that the current discussion is independent of the existing GS program. We should think in terms of knowledge, skills, and experience. She noted that institutions with a cafeteria-style GS program have found that their students lack civic engagement.

3. **Some Things to Consider:**  (Questions from Round Table Participants)
Q: What role will students play in this discussion?
A: Bridges will stay in contact with Student Senate, but feels that faculty are in a better position to identify general student outcomes.

Q: Will prospective employers be invited to contribute?
A: Probably not at this stage; we will draw on faculty experience in this regard.

Q: Will the committee divide into small working groups?
A: There will be some focused discussions, but no subcommittees given specific tasks. The group should stay together for these brainstorming sessions, thinking and talking.

4. Finding Common Ground:
Before the meeting, Bridges had asked each member of the Round Table to draw up a list of characteristics of the ideal General Studies program; these lists were then collected and distributed to the entire Round Table. 14 members responded. The Round Table members divided into groups of 4 (1 member per College) to identify commonalities among the 14 lists. After discussion, the groups identified these commonalities:

- Acquisition of communication skills – ability to use, analyze, and reason in English (or another language)
- Critical thinking / problem solving skills
- Knowledge of human behavior and development
- Knowledge of society and cultures / global awareness and diversity
- Acquisition of lifelong learning skills
- Knowledge or moral and ethical behavior and development
- Knowledge of wellness (nutrition and fitness)
- Ability to integrate knowledge
- Learning to ask why / intellectual curiosity
- Self-awareness
- Ability to access information
- Active citizenship / civic engagement
- Understanding and applying scientific reasoning, including mathematics and statistics
- Technology skills
- Appreciation of the fine arts (performing arts and literature)

The Round Table did not ponder the semantic nuances of each item on the list; instead, the goal was to extract the skills, knowledge, and experiences / dispositions that ran through almost all the lists. We discovered that we are probably not as far apart on these as we may have believed. Now our job is to take this message back to our colleagues, explaining how we came up with these common themes.

Next time: The Round Table will take this list and translate it into actual student
outcomes.

5. Schedule of meetings: (All meetings will be held in NSU 310 [except the meeting on 4/22] from 3-5 PM.)

March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, and April 29 (if needed)

Martha Kruse, Recorder