

University of Nebraska at Kearney
General Studies Council
Minutes of October 5, 2006
Warner Conference Room
APPROVED 11/2/06

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

Absent: Kyle Bowers, Jeanne Butler, Tommy Hansen, Laurence Hilton, Brooke McGee

I. Call to Order

Interim Director of General Studies Daren Snider called the meeting to order on October 5 at 3:30 p.m. in Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room.

II. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2006 meeting.

After review of the minutes by the Council, Spessard/Bridges moved to approve with correction of the date of the meeting and a minor editorial change. Approval was unanimous.

III. Open issues.

- a. *The Fundamental Changes to General Studies Program* document was discussed. Council made some minor editorial changes. It also added language to make the process for changing the GS program more inclusive, such as disseminating a proposed GS program for consideration and comment by all faculty before seeking ratification from the colleges.

Director Snider will make the revisions to the document

- b. Rozema/Barton moved to take the General Studies Council Governance document from the table. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion ensued. It was decided to incorporate the *Fundamental Changes to General Studies Program* document into the Governance Document.

Volpe/Rozema moved to approve the two documents to be merged, corrected as discussed, and forwarded to the SVCAALS for review.

Anderson felt the process for approving the changes in the "Fundamental Changes" document was confusing and suggested that a flow chart would reduce confusion. Graduate Assistant Hyatt will create a flowchart and bring it to the next meeting.

- c. **Phase II Roundtable – Kropp and Asay reported on discussions at the Phase II Roundtables. Some ideas discussed were the possibility of having thematic core courses, the need for faculty training, the need for rigor in GS courses, and the need to help students improve their ability to read and analyze primary texts.**

Rozema inquired about GS documents that the council had once voted to forward to the Roundtables. Director Snider will find out what documents were included and determine if they were indeed forwarded.

IV. New business.

- a. **Academic Standards for GS courses were discussed. Director Snider distributed a page of thoughts for consideration by GSC members and possible future discussion.**
- b. **GS assessment reports. At present only six of approximately 26 assessment reports have been submitted. GA Hyatt receives reports and checks them for completeness. Director Snider refers reports with significant problems back to the respective department. Reports will be distributed to GSC members for review based on a matrix. It was suggested that a sample report be provided for the benefit of reviewers. After reports are reviewed, the GS director writes the final General Studies Assessment report.**
- c. **Rozema suggested using the 2001 APR as action items for the GSC. Barton noted that items 4 and 5 of the APR have been addressed. Director Snider will make the 2001 APR available to council members for review.**

Asay/Rozema moved without objection to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next General Studies Council meeting will be Thursday, November 2, 2006, Warner Conference Room, FNDH 1000, at 3:30 p.m.