

**General Studies Council
Minutes of the September 6, 2007 Meeting
Founders Hall, Warner Conference Room
September 6, 2007
Approved 10/4/07**

Present: Vijay Agrawal, Bethany Albrecht, John Anderson, Debbie Bridges, Jeanne Butler, Karin Covalt, Mary Daake, Tommy Hansen, Laurence Hilton, Sonja Kropp, Larry Kuskie, John Lillis, Carol Lilly, Marta Moorman, Kim Schipporeit, Daren Snider, Linda Spessard-Schueth, Tim Hruza

Absent: Sylvia Asay, David Rozema

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 April 5th, 2007 meeting.

Approved without objection after typographical error is corrected.

III. Reports

Jeanne Butler, Director of Assessment, shared a handout with the Council showing the seven areas identified for review in the coming NCA focused visit. The focused visit is the final stop before accreditation is denied; therefore, it is critical that we pass this visit. She feels that we have made great strides in the last 3 years, and that if UNK continues what it is doing, we should be on track with what NCA expects. All reports will be online prior to the NCA visit. Reports are to be in by October 1. If reports do not follow assessment plans, they will be returned to departments to revise. Director Butler or Coordinator von Schrader will visit college or department meetings to offer assistance when requested.

Director Snider announced that all departments offering GS courses are expected to turn in GS reports by October 1, and the departments may expect to have feedback from the GSC by December 1. GSC members will read GS assessment reports.

IV. New Business

a.) Next month, CAAP (Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency) exam will be given to 400 UNK students, 200 freshman and 200 seniors. Each student will take two exams, one in critical thinking and one requiring a written essay. The tests and data analysis are being free of charge in order to allow ACT, which created the CAAP, to develop national benchmarks. The CAAP results will also be used in WI assessment. Snider noted that a standardized test such as CAAP or CLA would be required by the Regents if we were not independently pursuing assessment options. Discussion ensued as to what would be the best way to select the student sample. We can use the data as suits our purposes and determine later whether or not to continue using the test at standard cost. Director Snider will work with the CAAP representative to determine the most appropriate ways to assemble a sample population to

take the test.

b.) The Council discussed whether to review the Perspective Objectives of General Studies. It was noted that for assessment purposes, departments are only required to assess for Category Objectives (i.e. Natural Sciences, Personal Development, etc.) Assessing for overall General Studies objectives, for Perspective Objectives, or for other objectives (such as those created by professional organizations in the disciplines) is optional.

c). Snider appointed three ad hoc committees for Fall 2007:

Academic Standards – consider what standards might be set for any course to be a General Studies course;

Capstone Course – refine the list of objectives for the capstone course that was created at the summer retreat;

3-Year Review – consider what review standards and procedures might be put in place for GS courses.

The *ad hoc* committees will submit their product to Snider by 9/24/07 to be part of the packet for the October 4th GSC meeting.

d.) Director Snider welcomed four new members of the General Studies Council: Carol Lilly, John Lillis, Darleen Mitchell, and student member Tim Hruza.

V. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The regularly meeting of the General Studies Council will be Thursday, October 4, 2007, in the Warner Conference Room, FNDH 1000, at 3:30 p.m.