

Special General Studies Council Minutes
October 15, 2009 Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
Academic Affairs Conference Room, Founders Hall
Approved via email 12/7/09

Present: Sylvia Asay, Tommy Eshleman, Tommy Hansen, Ralph Hanson, Sonja Kropp, Kristi Milks, Jan Moore, Daren Snider, Ron Wirtz

Absent: Vijay Agrawal, Debbie Bridges, Mary Daake, Sherri Harms, Daryl Kelley, Carol Lilly, Darleen Mitchell, Marta Moorman, Kim Schipporeit

I. Call to Order:

Director Snider called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Course Proposal Evaluations – First Deadline 1 of 2:

There was discussion regarding having a common number for portals and a common number for capstones.

The Council also discussed the “Sunset Rule” where all courses would be approved for a period of time, and then reviewed on the basis of assessment data.

A Portal course should engage students in big questions rather than focusing on disciplinary content. The portal should open students’ minds to new ideas and different ways of thinking from multiple perspectives. Students should acquire critical thinking skills that transcend disciplinary boundaries.

To assist the Council in evaluating portal proposals, Hanson developed four evaluation questions:

- 1) How is the global context used in the proposed course?
- 2) What is the well articulated theme and how does it connect to issues confronting the individual and/or society?
- 3) How does the proposed course incorporate writing?
- 4) How does it incorporate research?

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 29, 2009 3:30 p.m., Academic Affairs Conference Room, Founders Hall.