

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
September 17, 2015
Minutes

Attending: Gail Fernandez, Denise Budd, Joshua Guttman, Gina Hermann, Kate Hossain, Alan Kaufman, Ilene Kleinman, Tracy Saltwick, Takvor Mutafoğlu.

1. Meeting started at 12:30. Committee members introduced themselves.
2. April Minutes were accepted.
3. Alan Kaufman spoke about upcoming changes to the General Education Committee:
 - a. In late July, the Senate officers had a meeting with Dr. Walter. Dr. Walter agreed that the General Education Committee should become a standing committee of the Faculty Senate.
 - b. The Senate needs to decide the structure of the Gen Ed committee including whether to appoint the chair and committee members or to elect them. Presently, Dr. Mullaney appoints the chair and committee members.
 - c. A proposal by the Senate officers regarding the new structure will be presented to the Senate at the October meeting. Before then, the officers will speak with past committee chairs and members.
 - d. No decisions have been made about whether to keep the existing committee or to change it. The Committee will remain as is through December.
 - e. The current chair suggested that the current committee remain through the academic year so as not to raise any red flags for the Middle States Self-Study visiting team. Also, it will allow the current committee to see this year's assessment through to completion.
4. General Education Website:
 - a. Chair shared revised site.
 - b. Josh Guttman suggested that NJIT be added to the Course Transfer Equivalencies document.
<http://www.bergen.edu/Portals/0/Docs/GenEdu/BCCGenEdCoursesTransferEquivalencies.pdf>
5. 2014-2015 General Education Assessment Report
 - a. The chair summarized the findings of the report. She commented that areas of weakness included Evaluate Potential Solutions (Problem Solving) and Assumptions (Quantitative Literacy) which are critical thinking skills. This same weakness was also evident in the previous assessment. We don't know if students have weak critical thinking skills or whether assignments don't ask for it.

- b. Tracy Saltwick shared that she submitted artifacts and as we reviewed them she realized she only asked students to solve the problems, rather than do more with the assignment.
 - c. We discussed next steps:
 - i. Josh Guttman commented that he sends the Gen Ed meeting minutes to his department before they have their monthly meeting. It is a good idea for committee members to share minutes rather than having committee chair send them to dept. chairs.
 - ii. Suggest workshops to faculty development:
 - 1. Online session on critical thinking (adjuncts can get credit)
 - 2. Workshop on LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes
 - 3. Workshop on critical thinking
 - iii. Participate in adjunct conference – explain assessment project
 - iv. New faculty orientation
 - v. Tenure track faculty who are looking at their core competency of assessment can use Gen Ed assessment as part of their work.
6. Assessment 2015-2016
- a. We will continue using the same assessment process for continuity.
 - b. We are considering assessing:
 - i. Intercultural knowledge and competence
 - ii. Ethical reasoning and action
 - c. We may need to simplify the rubric.
 - d. When we send out letter asking for faculty participation, we can send some sample wording for assignments.
7. Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Submitted by Gail Fernandez