

University General Education Committee
Meeting of November 19, 2004

Present: Carl Brun (CoLA), Susan Carrafiello (Honors), Candace Cherrington (CoNH), Mindy Diesslin (CoSM), Jeanne Fraker (UVC), Brian Happy (SG), Lillie Howard (Provost), Dan Ketcha (CoSM), Evan Osborne (RSCoB), Henry Limouze (CoLA, Chair)

1. Minutes from October 15 were approved.

2. Following on the review of the General Education Student Learning Outcomes Evaluation Form in the previous meeting, the committee assessed possible new questions for each area. Contributions were considered from areas one, two, three, four and six. All will be revised and reexamined at the first meeting in winter. The committee recommended the following general guidelines:

- as far as possible, questions should be keyed to the GE learning objectives and to the specific area learning objectives
- the form may be more useful if questions are tailored to sub-areas within each area; for example, questions within area 2 may be tailored to fit classes in History, and the same questions may be phrased differently for non-western courses
- Area six should also add a question based on the language in the heading to that area: "Area VI requirements link general education more closely with study in the major"

The committee was divided on whether adherence to the exact wording of the GE learning objectives was necessary or whether some departure from this wording made sense. The chair will consult with who have expertise in designing questionnaires before we go further.

In addition, the committee looked at the construction of the entire form. The following changes were tentatively approved:

- unless a consultant in statistical services advises otherwise, we will remove "Undecided" from the answers available to students; we will keep "not applicable" as an answer
- questions should be grouped so that the area-specific questions are placed together

3. Committee members are all invited to the forthcoming Seminar on Area Three on Thursday, December 2 from 9:30-11:30 in 495 Millett. Discussants (including Evan Osborne, who is responsible for the original idea) will present the ways in which their Area 3 classes define and treat "human behavior." The goal is to encourage area faculty to communicate across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

4. Brian Happy has received responses to his survey of UVC faculty teaching learning-community sections linked to GE courses. Initial responses suggest that relatively little communication among GE faculty occurs in these situations. He will tabulate responses and have them available in January.

5. The chair will send out a grid to set up a meeting time in winter. UGEC members are encouraged to be as generous with their grids as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.