General Education Advisory Task Force Committee meeting
March 16, 2010, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Gillham Park Room, Administrative Center

Attending: Cindy Pemberton, Mary Allen, Kim Bray, Laura Gayle Green, Jolene Lynn, Deb O’Bannon, Tim Timmons, Marilyn Taylor, Paul Cuddy, Wayne Vaught, Linda Garavalia, Lynda Plamann, Julie Cheslik

Absent: Cheryl Grossman

Cindy Pemberton convened the meeting, reminding the membership that the deadline for submitting a report to the Provost is approaching. This report, with recommendations from the task force, is due to the Provost in May.

Announcement, AAC&U Summer Institute for General Education:

Cindy Pemberton announced to the membership that our proposal to attend the AAC&U General Education Summer Institute has been accepted. She thanked the membership for their assistance with the proposal. AAC&U has suggested that teams be comprised of no more than five individuals, and we will stay within that number. The Institute will take place from June 4-9 in Burlington, Vermont. The last day of the institute is reserved for participating institutes to present their report.

Conversation with Rita Kean and Nancy Mitchell:

Cindy Pemberton asked the membership for feedback from Drs. Kean and Mitchell’s visit on March 2. It was noted that both Drs. Kean and Mitchell reaffirmed that the process is most critical, and that a significant investment of time and self goes into the work. We will ask Drs. Kean and Mitchell for advice as we proceed. Technology too, will play a large role in disseminating and gathering information.

Jake Kupiec sent a link to Cindy Pemberton for Stevens Point, and this site was shared with the membership. The site has a place for students and faculty to provide feedback and presents itself as an effective means to engage those groups.

Work of the General Education Advisory Task Force:

Three pieces remain:

1. Get recommendations to the Provost. Need to develop framework for moving ahead;
2. Finalize/clarify rationale for general education; and
3. Determine as a group how to engage in conversation on campus to raise awareness of general education.

Cindy Pemberton asked the membership for their ideas on the above.

The membership discussed strategies to get the word out to their faculty.

Brainstorming:

Have discussion regarding general education with Advisory Boards.
- Key framework piece: recognize that this kind of experience has a dual role and include in talking points that the general education process 1) enhances life experiences, and 2) connects to career.

- Raise people’s awareness.

- May want to come back to a smaller group to get feedback.

- Make certain that faculty know the rationale for this process:
  1. Explain where we are currently;
  2. State the rationale for looking at general education now;
  3. Advise them of the process for next year; and
  4. Include in the message that we will call on faculty to participate in this process.

- Demonstrate the lack of cohesion with UMKC General Education requirements:
  1) Presently, there are only two courses listed as general education requirements in every school: one is for the government requirement, and the other is the English requirement.
  2) General Education requirements vary in each school and number anywhere from 22-68 hours.

- We have a very complex academic unit driven approach, making it difficult for two-year institutions to have formal articulation agreements. Our unique campus mission should be reflected in our general education program. Most professional schools have accreditation, and we need to frame this in that perspective.

- Cindy Pemberton stated that there will be an announcement in UMatters on the acceptance of the proposal and that a team from UMKC will be attending the institute.

Cindy Pemberton asked if the teams would like to break into two groups to continue work on the draft documents to 1) finalize the bullet points for opportunities to meet with faculty and prepare background/rationale; and 2) draft recommendations to give to the Provost to include framework/guiding principles that will help inform the future groups working on the curriculum reform process.

- Framework: Suggested that this be renamed “Guiding Principles” taking into account:
  - that it fits with our mission;
  - is cognizant of accreditation guidelines;
  - addresses what is best for our students; and
  - sets boundaries.

- Examples on engaging faculty:
  - Focus groups.
  - Get on faculty meeting agendas.

- Make case why this is an important issue. Need to state why general education is important, and capitalize on what we have learned over the past several months.
**FOLLOW UP**

1. The two groups should send their draft documents to Mary Allen prior to the April 6 meeting.

2. Think about focus groups and who might be included in such groups. This is a great opportunity to bring together advisors.

3. Faculty Meetings: Prior to April 6, send to Mary Allen the dates of faculty meetings in each of your units, and we will send this information out to the membership.

4. For the agenda on April 6, we will finalize both documents – recommendations to the Provost re: guiding principles and “Rationale” for general education revision document for discussions with faculty groups, etc.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY TASK FORCE WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 6 FROM 3:00 – 5:00 P.M. IN THE GILLHAM PARK ROOM.**