Notes from General Education Advisory Task Force Committee meeting
Friday, October 23, 2009, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Brookside Room, Administrative Center

Attending: Cindy Pemberton, Mary Allen, Wayne Vaught, Deborah O’Bannon, Kim Bray, Laura Gayle Green, Cheryl Grossman, Paul Cuddy, Julie Cheslik, Jolene Lynn, Lynda Plamann, Linda Garavalia

Guests: Jennifer DeHaemers, Michael Strait

Absent: David Cornell, Tim Timmons

(Note: Linda Garavalia has replaced Simon Friedman on the General Education Advisory Task Force Committee)

Discussion Points:

- Per Vice Provost Pemberton, from now and until the end of the semester, the committee will use this time to get background information in general education, focusing attention nationally at best practices and aspirational peers to help inform us as we go forth.

- AAC&U Summer Institute: The link for this information was sent in advance of today’s meeting. Information on next summer’s institute has not been finalized, but we are not anticipating any dramatic changes to the format. Participation in the institute is a competitive process, and a small group formed out of this committee will be put in place to work on a proposal between now and the end of the semester. We should have a draft proposal to share with the committee after we return from break after the first of the year.

- Need to begin thinking about the conversation we will have campus-wide. We need to develop a plan.

Presentations:

- Jennifer DeHaemers shared background information on the 42 hour block transfer (general education, statewide articulation agreement), as well as issues associated with transfer students that we need to consider as we move forward with general education reform. She agreed to serve as a resource to this committee as work progresses.

- Michael Strait gave a presentation on the work of the UMKC Assessment Committee, and draft university core student learning outcomes and the work of LAMP and CAI. He provided background information on the various initiatives (Curriculum Alignment Initiative, Learning Assessment in Missouri Postsecondary Imperatives for Change, and UMKC Campus Core Learning Outcomes). Handouts were distributed that provided more information on these initiatives. Michael Strait stated that more attention will be brought to assessment and Campus Learning Objectives. Assessment has to be built into the general education process, and general education will need to be continually reviewed. For the HLC in 2013, we will need to have an assessment plan in writing for every academic program with implementation underway.

- Wayne Vaught began reporting on the work the College has begun in looking at revising existing general education requirements. Two previous efforts have failed, and faculty in the school are again working on general education requirements.
AAC&U Summer Institute:

- The AAC&U Summer Institute will take place on June 4-9 at the University of Vermont in Burlington. If selected, we will send a team. Vice Provost Pemberton asked for two individuals from the committee to assist her in preparing the draft proposal to attend this institute. Those interested in serving should advise her. This work should be completed by the end of the fall semester, and the draft proposal will be shared with the task force membership.

Other:

- We will look at best practices in terms of process, and look at aspirational peers, and what their general education plan looks like (i.e. SUNY-Buffalo, University of Pittsburgh). We will also get the names of the institutions who have had success in revising their general education program and have some good models, from Dr. Carol Schneider, and pass this information on to the membership. Vice Provost Pemberton will also ask members of this committee to gather information from various institutions on their general education program and report back to this committee. In this process, be sure to focus on getting information about how they have successfully gone through general education program review, as well as information about the model they have instituted. Please ask for their suggestions and input, as we need to take advantage of other people’s experience with this process.

- Members were asked to review and “potholes” book and to be prepared to discuss which aspects we need to pay attention to relative to this process at UMKC. Task force members are also encouraged to go to AAC&U website and look at the information posted and for elements that fit our mission and have been identified as best practices.

For Meeting on November 2:

Committee members should read the publication, A Guide for Curricular Change - Revising General Education – And Avoiding the Potholes, by Paul L. Gaston and Jerry G. Gaff and identify those things most relevant to UMKC. Also, if possible, review the article “Toward Intentionality and Transparency: Analysis and Reflection on the Process of General Education Reform” by R. Kean, N. Mitchell, and D. Wilson.