Notes from General Education Task Force Committee meeting
Monday, October 5, 2009

Attending: Gail Hackett, Cindy Pemberton, Mary Allen, Wayne Vaught, Deborah O’Bannon, Tim Timmons, Kim Bray, Laura Gayle Green, Paul Cuddy, Julie Cheslik, Jolene Lynn, Lynda Plamann (had to leave before the meeting concluded), Simon Friedman

Absent: Cheryl Grossman (Karen Kendall attended in Cheryl Grossman’s absence), and David Cornell

Vice Provost Pemberton convened the meeting and asked the committee members to introduce themselves. After introductions, the meeting was turned over to Provost Hackett who advised the membership of their charge. The membership received a written copy of the General Education Advisory Task Force Committee charge. Provost Hackett explained that the establishment of this committee stems from a need to review the University’s general education requirements. The current set of requirements is out of date and difficult to comprehend.

In order to grow as a university, undergraduate enrollment needs to be addressed in targeted ways. We need to build on the positive outcomes generated from the strategic plan. We need to pay attention to the curricular issues, including providing students with the opportunity to explore courses they might not access otherwise. We need to discuss having a common set of learning outcomes, and get beyond the school-based to the university-based discussions. As part of UMKC’s mission, we are striving to increase the number of full-time, first-time freshman and mold them over the course of their career at UMKC. The present system sets up barriers, and that is a pragmatic reason to help them negotiate the system.

The charge of this committee is to take a leadership role, and this will be a multi-year process. The expectation over the course of this year will be to introduce issues and get the conversation going. By the end of the year, we should have a sense of what can be accomplished and set up a timeline. The Provost’s Office has initiated the work at hand, but this is a faculty process and that group will need to be engaged and make all curricular decisions. The Provost’s Office will support and help this committee in taking a leadership role in this effort. Further, Provost Hackett stated that she will look into what can be done to send a group of UMKC faculty to the AAC&U General Education Institute next summer in order to acquire more information on general education curriculum.

Vice Provost Pemberton advised the membership that there is a general education link on the Provost’s web page, and this is where material will be posted and will be a resource for general education information. Committee members were advised to send any information that they find relevant to this topic for posting on the site.

Discussion Points:

ifen It is important to note that the role of this task force is not to put together the new general education requirements. The role of this task force is to develop the process and the structure to solicit proposals and ideas. This will be a faculty-driven process.

ifen Vice Provost Pemberton stated that she has talked to representatives from other institutions about this process, and it is to be expected that it will take two to three years to implement. In the past, other units on campus have addressed this issue, only to experience fits and starts. Dr. Carol Geary Schneider’s recent visit set the stage for this discussion, and her presentation was recorded and is posted on the General Education web site.
AAC&U has been a leader in addressing general education and members were asked to refer to their site [http://www.aacu.org/] for additional resource materials. During Dr. Schneider’s visit to our campus in September, she spoke of the domains that are important across the different universities. A copy of the template with the domains was distributed to the membership.

We want to make sure that an assessment piece is part of the general education process. We need to build in an on-going review cycle so that we don’t end up in the same situation as we are at present.

The state of Missouri, as well as at the national level, is involved in a process with CAI (Curriculum Alignment Initiative) to identify student competency for those exiting the K-12 system to higher education, then from basic general education to higher education. Michael Strait has been involved in LAMP (Learning Assessment in Missouri Post-secondary Education) and will be invited to our next meeting to bring current information to the task force.

Timeframe: In conversations with Vice Provost Pemberton and Provost Hackett, it was decided the work should move forward and be completed within a 2-3 year timeframe. The third year could be slated for implementation. We need to look at institutions who have undergone this process and look at their models. Another option as we move forward is to bring people to campus who have experience with this topic, and we can work with the Provost on this.

Materials in the Packet distributed to the Membership

Publications:

A Guide for Curricular Change - Revising General Education – And Avoiding the Potholes
By Paul L. Gaston and Jerry G. Gaff

Our Students’ Best Work: A Framework for Accountability Worthy of Our Mission
A Statement from the Board of Directors of the Association of American Colleges and Universities

High-Impact Educational Practices – What they are, Who has access to them, and Why they matter
By George D. Kuh

Additional Documents:

Draft Proposal – UMKC College of Arts and Sciences General Education Requirements

Wayne Vaught will give this committee more context on this proposal at our next meeting on October 23. CAS is revising their process; the third attempt in 10 years.


CBHE General Education Matrix – UMKC Compliance with COTA (Committee on Transfer and Articulation)
Excerpts from the Missouri Department of Higher Education – Credit Transfer Guidelines for Student Transfer and Articulation Among Missouri Colleges and Universities, Revised October 13, 2005.

Matrix – UMKC General Education Requirements broken down by School