

NDSU General Education Committee
Special Meeting Minutes for January 31, 2007

Members Present: David Anderson, Elizabeth Birmingham, Michael Christoffers, Robert Harrold, Catherine Haugen, RaNelle Ingalls, Virginia Clark Johnson, Margaret Lee, Char Myhre, Larry Peterson, Robyne Williams, Kristi Wold-McCormick.

Members Absent: Eric Asa, Jae Min Jung, and John Martin

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report

UNIV 189 Survey– RaNelle, Kate, Robyne.

Results of survey. Presented by Bill Slanger, Director of Institutional Research & Analysis, Samudra Kugel, Grad Student with Institute, Carolyn Schnell, Director of University Studies, and Student President Dante Miller.

History – Three years ago Provost asked committee to look at UNIV 189. The GE Ad Hoc Subcommittee (RaNelle, Kate and Robyne) used the GDC to create an online survey for students with a series of questions about UNIV 189 and three open-ended questions asking about – 1) The most useful part of the course; 2) The least useful part of the course; and 3) The one most important improvement that could be made for this course.

Response to Survey - 1,224 responded, with 88, 85 and 79% making comments on the three open-ended questions. The responses were uniform across classes; sophomores, juniors and seniors scored the items pretty much the same.

Brief Summary –

- Students want to keep the course. It is important, but they want more depth.
- Students want the course content at a higher level, to be more academically rigorous. They want to get even more out of this course such as exploring majors
- Students who had some college experience (either as transfer students or dual enrollment in high school) saw less need for the study skills
- Segment (or tailor) the course content by college – (This has happened since survey)
- There are statistically significant differences among the colleges on the individual questions on the survey.
- Have more on-line modules and replace text
- Have three or fewer instructors who teach UNIV 189 year in and year out for each college
- Keep library aspect for all sections
- Separate sections for transfer and non-traditional students

Committee Discussion:

- What does academic rigor mean in this course? How can we develop rigor of class? Some colleges seem to be successful and others received lower satisfaction. We do have models and we need to learn from them to improve.
- Option – Set up a task force with 1 or 2 liaisons from GE group (Char), Carolyn Schnell, student(s), and representatives who teach the course from each college to look over all data.
- Larry will attend Dean's Meeting February 8th, to present a brief summary of survey and to ask each Dean to appoint a task force member.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2007, 4:00 pm, C.I.Nelson Building, Room 104

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Wolter