

General Education Subgroup Meeting Summary
December 15, 2010
9:30-11:00 a.m.
Regionalist Room, Kansas Union

Subgroup members present: Amy Devitt, Lisa Friis, Bob Goldstein, Chris Haufler, Julie Kaarbo, Paul Koch, Yoonmi Nam, Dena Register, Michael Wade Smith, Lisa Wolf-Wendel.

Subgroup members absent: Alex Rippberger (taking a final exam)

Agenda:

1. EEE workgroup updates—Chris Haufler
 - A. The progress of other EEB subgroups
 - B. Criteria developed for campus-wide Strategic Initiatives that will integrate across disciplines and involve both research and educational goals
2. Review of materials distributed
 - A. General Education Goals – 2001 – KU
 - B. General Education Goals – Rutgers
 - C. General Education Goals – Nebraska
 - D. Proposed goals of general education – 2010 survey results
 - E. Verbatim comments from discussions of prioritizing goals of general education
3. Initial discussion of the anticipated trajectory for generating strategic action plans to guide the General Education renewal process
 - A. Reviewing and revising the KU General Education Goals
 - B. Linking the revised goals to development of a new curriculum
 - C. Building a new University-wide general education curriculum in concert with schools and the College
4. Beginning the renewal of KU's General Education goals
 - A. Considering the recommendations from individuals and group discussions of priorities
 - B. Comparing anticipated KU goals with those from peer AAU institutions
 - C. Reviewing comments from individuals – what appears constructive or raises concern?
 - D. Developing lists of “gotta have” and “might be nice” goals
 - E. Can some goals be grouped into meaningful composites?

Discussion questions:

- What can we learn from individual and department responses about General Education goals?
- What should constitute the renewed KU General Education Goals?
- How do we link the curriculum to revised goals?
- What decisions need to be made?

Discussion outcomes: The group discussed the trajectory among AAU institutions to make General Education university-wide, and agreed that this is the path we should follow as we move the work of the subgroup forward. We need to know more about accreditation requirements and general education courses in KU professional school programs. The group agreed to develop a template for professional school programs to outline their current general education courses in order to determine if there is a common core within the university. The group requested that the commentary from individual and department surveys and focus groups be categorized by themes, in order to make it easier to identify trends within the responses. The group discussed inviting deans and the provost to a future meeting to hear feedback about anticipated changes in General Education and to help navigate the systems that will play a part in the reform process.

Next steps:

- Continue to compile priority analyses of general education goals from departmental conversations.
- Categorize survey and focus group commentary by themes.
- Develop a template for schools to report general education courses.
- Review current KU General Education Goals and use feedback from surveys and discussions to consider revisions of them.
- Schedule a meeting for mid-January to discuss further what the goals of General Education might look like at KU.