

General Education Subgroup Meeting
1/13/11
1:30-3:00 p.m.
Governor's Room, Kansas Union

Present: Duane Bruce, Sarah Crawford-Parker, Amy Devitt, Lisa Friis, Chris Haufler, Craig Huneke, Paul Koch, Michael Wade Smith, Lisa Wolf-Wendell, Ron Ragan, and Alex Rippberger

Not Present: Bob Goldstein, Julie Kaarbo, Yoonmi Nam, Dena Register

Agenda:

1. EEE Workgroup updates—Chris Haufler
 - a. The progress of other subgroups
 - b. Impact of other group recommendations on General Education
2. Review of materials distributed.
 - a. Template for surveying professional schools
 - b. Synthesis of General Education Goals
 - c. Themes from qualitative comments
 - d. Analyses of quantitative responses
3. Review progress to date, the road ahead, and subgroup objectives and timeline
4. Review of a proposed template for gaining perspectives on fundamental knowledge expectations across KU Schools. (Lisa Friis and Paul Koch)
5. Developing a working set of Goals of General Education (75 minutes)
 - a. Reviewing and revising the KU General Education goals.
 - i. What is the essence of general education? What are we hoping to achieve by having such goals?
 - ii. Is the current rendering of general education goals complete and clear?
 - iii. Is it useful to have sub-headings for groups of goals?
 - b. Considering the objective of linking goals to a revised general education curriculum, how should our new goals be framed?
 - i. Should we consider options for “capstone” goals?
 - ii. Should each goal be multifaceted or can we generate briefly-stated critical goals that may have longer descriptors to explicate them more fully?
6. Plans for next meeting—meet with Deans to gain a sense of buy-in and support?

Discussion Questions:

- What information should be included in the curriculum template for deans and department chairs?
- Feedback on draft goals that combine our existing goals with survey and focus group data?
- From our draft goals what elements are missing that appear in other AAU institutions' goals?
- Are there goals that can be combined or eliminated?
- How do we define the function of general education?

Discussion Outcomes:

- The group agreed on the design of a template for reporting core curriculum requirements.

- Institutions that have recently revised their general education programs feature curricula that are broad enough to be applied to degree programs across all schools, are linked to goals, and are tied to learning outcomes and assessment. In keeping with this model, we are drafting renewed goals that should be flexible and adaptable to learning expectations in both the CLAS and the professional schools.
- The group revised the draft set of goals.
- The group consensus was that general education consists of foundational skills, knowledge, and values established via a core curriculum drawn from a broad range of courses and learning experiences.

Next Steps:

- Chris Haufler will meet with the deans for input on Tuesday, January 18th. Members of the subgroup are welcome to attend this meeting.
- Next meeting of the General Education subgroup will be February 1st, 10-noon, Governor's Room in the Kansas Union.