

General Education Subgroup Meeting  
February 8, 2011  
8:45-10:45 a.m.  
Alcove F

**Subgroup Members Present:** Sarah Crawford-Parker, Amy Devitt, Chris Haufler, Craig Huneke, Julie Kaarbo, Paul Koch, Yoonmi Nam, Ron Ragan, Dena Register, and Lisa Wolf-Wendel,

**Subgroup Members Absent:** Lisa Friis, Bob Goldstein, Alex Rippberger, and Michael Wade Smith

**Agenda:**

1. EEE workgroup updates
  - A. Progress of other EEE subgroups
    - i. Impact of other group recommendations on General Education
  - B. Review of discussion with administrative leaders
    - i. Buy in and support obtained
  - C. Common courses template distributed to undergraduate coordinators across university
2. Discussion of condensed General Education goals
  - A. Does this set of goals achieve the expectations you have? They were developed with the following objectives:
    - i. Condensed set mirror current goals, incorporates recommendations from survey results, and yields a list of goals that can be remembered.
    - ii. Each condensed goal has broad implications and multiple facets.
    - iii. Goals can be used to develop curricular details and requirements.
    - iv. Learning expectations can be tied to goals, results can be reviewed, and outcomes used to refine future curricular development.

**Renewed goals for KU General Education:**

***Following the General Education curriculum, we expect students to:***

- Build **core skills** of critical thinking and quantitative analysis
- Improve effective written and oral **communication**
- Develop a broad background of **knowledge** across major areas of study
- Gain the ability to **integrate** knowledge and **think creatively**
- Exercise **social** responsibility and **global** awareness
- Demonstrate **ethical behavior** and **respect** for human and cultural diversity

3. Discussion of ideas for “branding” KU general education – what can we do to build a distinctive personality for our renewed general education curriculum? *We need some conversation starters to get the campus involved in raising the profile of KU’s renewed general education.*
  - A. UKan Achieve
  - B. iKan Learn

- C. Kan do curricula
  - D. Surely you all can do better than this!
4. Discussion of next meeting—Expanding goals; developing models of curricular modules
- A. **Homework:** Pairs of group members pick goals, generate models of curricular modules

**Discussion Questions:** What will the scope of the subgroup recommendations look like? Will KU Schools be able to add additional requirements to the core that we recommend? What feedback does the group have on the six revised goals of General Education? How do we extend the goals into outcomes? What ideas does the group have for “branding” the KU goals?

**Discussion Outcomes:** The subgroup reviewed the six draft goals that build upon our existing goals and incorporate feedback from individual and departmental surveys. The subgroup discussed “global” as ranking particularly high in the surveys and revised the language of this goal to enhance its significance. Based on AAU research, the subgroup agreed to recommend that KU reduce the number of general education credit hours and adopt a university-wide system. The recommendations from the group would serve as baseline that individual schools can augment with other course requirements. The subgroup discussed whether there would be a need to impose a cap on maximum number of hours, although no decision was made. The subgroup also discussed the need to develop clear paths to admission into the professional schools and how general education requirements would impact schools being asked to admit freshmen. After the review of the draft goals, the subgroup agreed to develop outcomes for each goal that build in the assessment of learner outcomes. New general education courses would map onto these outcomes in order to be certified. The outcomes will expand and explain what each goal means and provide expectations for courses. The subgroup also discussed branding or framing the goals in a way that generates excitement among students and faculty and makes the goals memorable. Suggestions included “Common Ground” and “Common Core.”

**Next Steps:** Subgroup members will work in pairs to draft outcomes for an assigned goal. General Education Programs at Maryland and Nebraska will serve as examples.