

May 23, 2007

TO: Karyn Biasca, CNR, Paper Science
Patricia Holland, COFAC, Music
David Ozsvath, L&S, Geography/Geology
Greg Summers, L&S, History

FROM: Virginia M. Helm, Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

RE: Charge to the 2007 Summer General Education Research Team

Attached is the charge for your summer research project, as designed by our office in collaboration with Faculty Senate leadership. With that charge you will find also some reference materials – an article, a book, and a website from which to begin your research and the search for additional resources.

Thank you so much for your willingness to undertake this important and exciting project. I'm sure you will find it rewarding and quite possibly even ... fun.

Any time you have questions or want to talk about your work, I'll be happy to visit with you individually or collectively, while I remain here at UWSP. That will be until July 13. Also, Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Programs, Steve Bondeson, is and has a wealth of resources. Please feel free to contact him for his own suggestions

Best wishes for a productive summer!

Attachment

cc Chris Sadler, Chair, Faculty Senate
Randy Olson, outgoing Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Diane Gillo, incoming Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Linda Bunnell, Chancellor

UWSP Summer General Education Research Team

Charge to the Team

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

The charge to the General Education Research Team is to:

1. Read widely and deeply in the literature of general education *and* of current employer and college graduate perceptions of how college should prepare students for personal and professional success.
2. Identify several (3-5) general education models that you believe hold the greatest promise for UWSP faculty and students; articulate the rationale for their selection, which may include the strengths and concerns you have identified for each.
3. Identify several (5-10) general education mission statements to serve as models for campus discussion and eventual development of a UWSP general education mission statement.
4. Identify several (3-5) process models for the campus to consider as vehicles for engaging in a review of UWSP's general education (GDR) program. Again, articulate rationales for their selection, and state the pros and cons of each.
5. Identify potential speakers who could come to campus to describe how their respective campuses engaged in general education review/revision – what worked and what didn't – and why – as well as pointing to pitfalls we should avoid.
6. Draft a timeline for achieving the five outcomes above.
7. Determine your work strategy – how you will assign tasks to whom.
8. Be prepared to submit documents to the Provost's office by August 15 and to Faculty Senate's Academic Affairs Committee the first week of the fall semester. That Committee will play a key role in creating (or approving) the process for the campus-wide discussion about general education.

In addition to the charge, we are providing you with the following:

- A. *Five Minds for the Future*, by Howard Gardner. Recommended by Karyn, this book defines and describes five cognitive abilities or capabilities that will be required for success in the 21st century.

- B. *Designing a Signature General Education Program*, by Stephen L. Trainor, dean, Salve Regina University (*Peer Review, Fall, 2004*).
- C. Website for resources:
<http://www.aacu.org/issues/generaleducation/index.cfm> which includes numerous useful materials pertaining to assessment of general education, review of education (note especially *General Education: A Self-Study Guide for Review and Assessment*) and – under “Resources”
- [Goals, Strategies, and Analysis](#)
 - [Promising Models](#)
 - [Transfer Models](#)
 - [Accreditation](#)
 - [Assessment](#)
 - [Selected Bibliography](#)