

**Copy of email text sent to General Education Program Review Committee
February 18, 2007**

Distributed to: General Education Program Review Committee
Glodowski, Justin M; Guay, Don; Houghton, John; Letson, Andrew C;
Olsen, Gary; Olson, Randy; Schneider, Julie; Summers, Greg;
Summers, Shari; Williams, Patricia

Copies to: Gillo, Diane; Bondeson, Steve; Sadler, Chris; Nelson, Barb; Bunnell,
Linda

Friends,

Thank you for serving on the General Education Review Committee and for such a nice meeting this afternoon. I am sorry my thoughts were not as focused as I would have liked due to my travel and the snow. You asked the questions that I hope helped pull the discussion together and help everyone understand what needs to be done.

I have attached the three documents that I recommended that you read as a starting point. The two that I think are most important to read first are the **AASCU Report 2006.pdf** and **GenEdResearchTeamReport081507.pdf**. The first of these is the report from the team from AASCU (The American Association of State Colleges and Universities). It details many of the issues that have been discussed on campus. The second of these gives a good background on perspectives from local campus faculty members who spent a summer looking at options for a new general education program. They have done a great deal of leg work on the issue of what general education might be and what some of the difficulties are going to be. They provide a nice bibliography on general education and some great data on other programs throughout the state and a few out of state. The file labeled **GEX FINAL.pdf** is the *Greater Expectations* report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). This report certainly goes beyond general education, but much of it has direct impact on general education. The final document, **GenEdProgram08.pdf**, is the announcement for the summer institute in Minneapolis. The dates are May 30 to June 4, and the application deadline is Feb. 22! Please let me know if you would be willing to participate in this institute; we are limited to 5 participants, and one must be a senior administrator.

To recap my comments today:

- First and foremost, keep our students in mind – focus on their needs, and remember that this curriculum will affect their entire lives.
- It is important that the committee develop an open communication with the university. Involve the university community in this process and your work; test their ideas, share your discussions with them, invite them to participate – dare them to participate. I encourage you to develop a General Education Revision Website to communicate with members of the university.
- I ask that you separate the General Education Curriculum from other degree requirements, and focus on the general education curriculum. The general education curriculum being that portion curriculum that is part of every undergraduate degree we offer, BA, BS, BFA, and AA.
- Think outside of what has been done and consider what could be. Don't think in terms of departments and courses, but in terms of outcomes and how those outcomes can best be met.

- Focus on a curriculum that identifies the skills, abilities, knowledge, patterns of thought, experiences, methods of expression, etc. that every UWSP graduate should possess to be able to function effectively as an engaged member of our society.
- By the end of the semester develop a mission statement and set of learning outcomes for the general education curriculum. Please feel free to send the mission statement and individual goals separately to the Academic Affairs Committee before they are all complete. This will allow the AAC, and the university as a whole, to be informed of your discussions.
- The structure of the curriculum should be worked out during the summer and submitted by the beginning of the fall semester, with the final curriculum finished and to AAC by March 2009. Courses will then be submitted for approval for the general education curriculum during the Fall and Spring of 2009-2010, with implementation scheduled for Fall 2010.
- I will not support a general education curriculum that is smaller than 40 credits.
- Given the needs of several departments on campus, I am suggesting that the general education curriculum not exceed 45 credits.
- You will receive a stipend of \$2,500 for the summer's work, but participation is required. I will supply guidelines on this in the near future.
- I am working to fund clerical support and IT support for the committee.

Thanks again for your willingness to participate in this important work. It looked to me like you have a great start on building the respect for each other that you will need to complete this task. I wish you all the best and am willing to support you in anyway that I can.

Mark

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