General Education Task Force Meeting Notes (09/30/10)

Present: Cliff Abbott, Lucy Arendt, Derryl Block, Kevin Collins, Tim Dale, Debbie Furlong, Scott Furlong, Ray Hutchison, Andy Kersten, Pao Lor, John Stoll, Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

1. Meeting notes form 8/25/10 were approved.

2. Scott reported that the AAC&U proposal was submitted and thanked people for their input on this. We should know something by mid-October.

3. The Task Force discussed the GE survey that went out in September. Some general comments were made regarding the data. We also discussed how people were selected to participate in the survey, which was primarily by sending it to people that were teaching this semester. We broke into small groups to discuss the written comments and reported back out on the major themes.

   - Interdisciplinary comments
     o Major comments/themes for the seminar were resources to mount this for all students, faculty development necessary to ensure effective teaching/outcomes, and a discussion of interdisciplinarity and the lack of agreement on the definition.
     o Comments on the large team-taught lecture focused primarily on logistics. How would it be counted as load? Difficulty in coordinating and collaborating.
   - Breadth requirements
     o Understanding of disciplinary versus interdisciplinary. Keep it simple and flexible. Concerns about the need for prerequisites for upper level GE requirements.
   - Critical social problems
     o Focus on “social” problems and not other types of problems. Many focused on the “cluster” idea and wondered about the logistics of this or did not fully grasp the idea. Want to keep GE simple. Some different opinions regarding senior capstones.
   - Academic skills
     o How to define and measure competency. Mix of comments on requiring foreign language. General unhappiness with writing emphasis as it is currently.
   - General comments

We will continue survey discussion at our next meeting. One suggestion made was to send out a summary to the campus of the results. We will discuss this.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 19th at 2:30 in MAC 201