General Education Task Force Meeting Notes (12/3/10)


Guest: Andrew Austin

1. Andrew Austin, a member of the Interdisciplinary Task Force, attended the meeting to discuss interdisciplinary courses in a proposed general education model. The members of the Interdisciplinary Task Force are concerned that a number of students can graduate with a small number of interdisciplinary courses. Given our mission and the results of the survey administered by the General Education Task Force, the Interdisciplinary Task Force wanted to discuss if a new general education model was moving in the direction of more interdisciplinarity. Since a new general model has not been fully developed at this time, Scott responded that the outcomes for a new model do reflect the interdisciplinary mission of the University. A new general education program would most likely contain a similar number of total credits with a similar proportion of interdisciplinary courses as we currently have.

2. Scott presented a new general education model on which a subcommittee of Lucy, Andy, Tim, John, and Scott worked. The model keeps the total number of credits we currently have with a slightly different distribution. Bryan mentioned that HUS has several concerns with any new model:
   - Given the vote of the Faculty Senate where do First Year Seminars fit into the plan?
   - Who decides what classes count for what credit?
   - HUS worked hard on the three current Humanities outcomes for general education and would not like to see this work changed
   - What does large class section mean?
   - What happens to writing emphasis courses and consequently course caps if writing emphasis courses no longer exist?
   Some of these were discussed at the last General Education Task Force meeting while others will need to be discussed.

3. Debbie presented an extensive resource perspective for the “Working Model.” With time running out, she quickly reviewed key assumptions and shifts made to use existing resources to deliver the working model. She will send out a detailed Excel spreadsheet for further discussion at the next meeting of the Task Force.

Next Meeting: TBD