General Education Task Force Meeting Notes (1/31/11)


1. The Task Force approved the notes from the last meeting.

2. An abbreviated version of the survey results is on the General Education Task Force web page.

3. Scott outlined a plan for the next two semesters. He would like to have a general education model distributed to faculty by the end of this semester for consideration throughout the summer. The hope is to have a vote on the plan by the Faculty Senate (or perhaps full faculty) during Fall 2011 with implementation in Fall 2012. The focus of this semester is to work through the model in detail, plan a process to present the model to each department, and continue discussions with the General Education Council and perhaps the University Committee.

4. The remaining time was spent on discussion of the following:
   - What will be questions and objectives of faculty?
   - What is best way to present the model to faculty?
   - Should we remove the proposed credits in each domain from the model to get buy in on the philosophy?
   - Why do perspective courses have small enrollments compared to the breadth courses? This is more for modeling purposes, but there is also a higher level of thinking involved with these courses than the breadth courses.
   - Avoid units from owning perspective courses; encourage the philosophy that the University owns general education program.
   - The General Education Council must have a stronger role in General Education (periodic course review, assessment of the general education program, etc.)
   - The current 13 learning outcomes were discussed and how they would fit into a proposed general education model. More and more universities are moving away from content driven learning outcomes and toward a philosophy of learning how to learn as demonstrated by the LEAP outcomes. Bryan Vescio provided insight into the possible feedback from the Humanistic Studies faculty since they recently completed a revision of the Humanities gen ed courses. They spent a great deal of effort and time aligning Humanities courses with appropriate learning outcomes from our current set.

Next Meeting: TBD