General Education Task Force Meeting Notes (3/31/11)

Present: Cliff Abbott, Tim Dale, Heidi Fenci, Debbie Furlong, Scott Furlong, Regan Gurung, Ray Hutchison, Andrew Kersten, Donna Ritch, Bryan Vescio, Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

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

2. Scott asked Heidi, Georjeanna, and Donna to summarize the General Education Assessment conference sponsored by the AAC&U which they attended in Chicago. All began by saying the conference was excellent.

   • After identifying the distributions and competencies, put the model forward entirely as a competency program; give to domain subcommittees to help in the development of learning outcomes. This generated quite a bit of the discussion within the Task Force.
   • For each competency, list multiple ways students can meet it
   • All students encouraged (required?) to maintain an ePortfolio for career/grad school applications; e-portfolios can also be used to assess entire general education program (this is a major undertaking which we are not prepared for at this point) or individuals courses, such as first year seminars
   • Formulate vocabulary for use with general education and use the vocabulary consistently
   • Do a better job communicating about general education – newsletter
   • Develop a culture of assessment; be mindful of how we might assess
   • We should consider a person on the general education task force from Academic Advising, Admissions, and Student Services
   • Use clickers in meetings to get sense of how people gauge topics
   • Many institutions use value rubrics developed by AAC&U for general education assessment of competencies

3. With the remaining time available, the Task Force members decided that at the next meeting, we would continue to review working model and statements, determine to whom we bring working model and statements, develop a vocabulary for the working model, etc.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 28 at 8:00 AM; room to be announced