General Education Task Force Meeting Notes (2/10/12)

Present: Lucy Arendt, Derryl Block, Kevin Collins, Susan Cooper, Tim Dale, Heidi Fencl, Debbie Furlong, Scott Furlong, Andy Kersten, Donna Ritch, John Stoll, Bryan Vescio, Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges

1. There were no modifications of the notes of the past meeting.

2. As discussed at the last meeting of the Task Force, Scott revised the memo to units by removing the statement about writing emphasis and adding a bulleted list of common elements or ideas to the First Year Seminars and the capstone courses. Most the discussion at this meeting centered on these two topics. Task Force members reached a consensus on the following:
   
   - Units should decide as to whether students can take a capstone course outside of their majors.
   - Wording of the paragraphs on the First Year Seminars and capstone courses should be rearranged so that they are parallel to one another.
   - Discussion took place regarding the bulleted list for the first year seminars. We specify skills here but nowhere else in the document. Questions arose about including bullet 4 related to engagement in the list since it is not part of the University mission. Members felt that the bullet points should clearly reflect the mission and the bullet points should be mapped to the learning outcomes of the model.
   - Discussion continued regarding the names of the capstone and first year courses. The consensus of the task force members was to use “capstone seminar and capstone experience” and “first year seminars.”

3. The next item of discussion was the quantitative elements of the model. We began a discussion as to what types of courses should be included in this category. Since many of the students take a statistics course, we thought it might be helpful to see if we could determine what percentage of students did not have that course and what types of courses they might take that would fulfill this category. Scott proposed that we think about what we may include in this category and bring this information to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 9th, 2012 at 8:30 AM