Minutes for GEC Meeting on 9/10/2014

Summary: A portion of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of the possible elimination of the freshman and sophomore programs and UB and the implications that would have for general education. The bulk of the meeting was consumed by a thorough discussion of agenda items for the year and a discussion of their relative importance.

Attendance: All members were in attendance but Catherine Andersen, Nancy O’Neill arrived not long after the main discussion started.

Discussion was based on a list generated by the chair reflecting the priorities of the faculty senate as well as her own assessment of what needs to be done. Initial conversation centered on review of recurring duties: Reviewing and recertifying course proposals. This quickly led into a discussion of assessment. There were a number of proposals and questions discussed:

- Should we have assessment tied to recertification?
  - There was broad agreement to explore this idea
  - It might also be wise to examine course offerings and enrollments
- Daniel agreed to take the lead on continuing program mapping, in conjunction with Jack Bates and the provost’s office
  - Once mapping is complete we can track students that enter after the traditional first semester through the curriculum
- Can we have program assessment dovetail with GenEd Assessment?
  - This seems difficult because of the structure of program review in some schools
- Could we just assess GenEd through a test/common assessment of work already done?
  - This is an area to explore in the future, but would require a great deal of time and effort to develop.

Ultimately the council concluded that assessment should be a primary goal.

There was agreement on a course of action for a number of other agenda items for the year as well:

- Communication
  - Members should take back to our various bodies an emphasis on scaffolding goals into upper level courses
  - Specific areas of the program should have a point person, or liaison. These would include
  - Everyone has a responsibility in getting word out about the common read.
  - Improving communication, in part through steps outlined above, was agreed to be a second primary goal.
• General Education Learning Goals
  o We think these can and should be streamlined quickly
  o There is a concern that we ensure they match COMAR in doing so

• Policy reviews
  o All members should review the policies
  o We will review the website in the future, Mike and Nancy are still cleaning things up
  o Daniel is updating degree audit which we can include under policy review

The meeting concluded with the chair asking that we redouble our efforts in getting information out there and trying to improve communication. Everyone should think of themselves as an ambassador, both to students and faculty.

Next meeting:

• The focus will be on the assessment plan which will be presented by Catherine Andersen
• Because there was insufficient time to address the vision statement members should review it and comments should be forwarded to the chair