**Re-envisioning the Undergraduate Experience Committee Meeting**

**January 11, 2018**

In attendance: Craig Thulin, Eugene Seeley, Cheryl Hanewicz, Matt North, Cynthia Krebs, Brian Verwer, Kevin McCarthy, Mary Brown, Tom Henry, Alexis Palmer, Vance Gough, Virginia Bayer, Nathan Toke, Joe Jensen, Melissa Noyes, Jon Anderson, Denise Richards, Wade Oliver, Jessica Gilmore, Brian Birch, Jack Sunderlage, Rona Rahlf, Kat Brown, Sean Tolman, Keith White, Nathan Cottle, Kathie Debenham, Wendy Athens, Tim Stanley, Michelle Kearns, Eric Humphrey, Robert Cousins, Andrew Stone, Afsaneh Minaie, Deborah Escalante, Rob Smith, Ross Hagen, Sharon Yamen, Laura Ricaldi, Brian Waite, Robin Escobar, Shauna Reher, Tiffany Evans, David Connelly

Guest speaker: Greg Benson – USHE

* Greg Benson from USHE introduced himself and gave a brief explanation and history regarding the R470 (General Education and Transfer policy) document.
* There is a framework in Utah which resembles other institutions across the nation.
* In R470 there are three core general education requirements:
  + Written communication – Two courses required – usually English 1010 and 2010
  + Quantitative Literacy – Typical courses are Math 1030, 1040 and 1050; room for other courses
  + American institutions – category that is mandated by state law; room for other courses
* There are five breadth areas in general education:
  + Arts, Humanities, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences
* One class in these seven categories equals 27 credit hours. 30 credits are required in Utah. Schools can require up to 39 credits leaving room for them to add additional requirements they may feel are necessary.
* New objectives and guidelines added to help institutions figure out what courses might fit into each category but not constrain too much. Also provides more guidance as to what course levels mean.
* Institutions can be innovative and still work within the structure of the R470.
* The category descriptions are offered as guidelines; not a checklist. It is just to give ideas. Not every course has to meet every criteria.
* In terms of innovation the outcomes that students leave with should be considered. This is not really addressed in R470. Latest revision spent time wrestling with that. There is an attempt to move away from GE courses we currently see so courses can be more integrated and broad. USU has courses that have broad general outcomes instead of courses in a specific area. For example, a course could be designed that integrates all of arts. Dixie is currently doing one.
* Employers want graduates to have good written and oral communications skills. Most courses should include some writing. English 1010 and 2010 are not sufficient. Faculty senate has put forth a resolution for a writing requirement in major specific courses for graduation to help address this issue. Good communication skills are critical.
* There are four ELOs addressed in the R470. Outcomes should drive the curriculum. Institutions need to come up with their own assessment to ensure the ELOs are being met. SUU has mapped courses back to the ELOs. Could look at their example. A lot of this comes into play in capstone courses.
* There was some discussion if streamlining the curriculum to get students into their major sooner would be of any benefit. Some GE requirements could fulfill major requirements as well. This would only work if a student has chosen a major. At UVU about half of the majors are currently doing this. For example, business majors are required to take economics for their social science credit. This creates silos and does not allow for more integrated and broad courses.
* Looking to the future more of a focus may be on LEAP (Liberal Education for Americas Promise). Being a LEAP state affords access to conversations and models. Some LEAP things are reflected in the outcomes in section 3. It guides the conversation of the state’s GE task force.
* May want to consider building in applied learning projects – high impact practices. Internships, projects, etc. UVU is trying to work with institutions to incorporate those types of things. There are no constraints on that. It is encouraged. Engaged learning would fit into that. The committee could reimagine the courses already being taught. Fred White’s office is working to identify where this is happening at UVU. There are five pillars of engaged learning.
* SUU is doing a jumpstart program.
* National horizon – not aware of big changes afoot. Might look at Northwest. Assessment is increasingly becoming important. Assessment is left up to institutions.
* WICHIE passport project – attempting on national scale what has been created in Utah. It has been a slow process getting more states involved. Completion of Utah GE meets passport requirements. Need to keep this in mind when revising GE.
* Article by Mike Lee and Mia love – Time to Modernize Higher Education – is about competency based education. Students demonstrate that they have these skills. SLCC is doing work in this area and piloting some things.
* There is a national movement to help students reduce additional credits and give them credentials along the way.
* Greg is available for questions anytime.

Updates

* Doodle poll – the current time was the most popular time to keep holding the meeting. The meeting will continue to be held Thursdays from 3-5 pm in CB 417. Those with conflicts will need to evaluate whether they feel a replacement will be needed or not and let their college know. Substitutions are allowed.
* During the meeting comments can be sent to Robin. Her information was given on a handout and will be written on the board at each meeting. She will monitor the comments and will let us know if something needs addressed.
* Wendy Athens is working on getting a canvas page set up. Should be up by next week for internal activities for the group. Wendy will give a short tutorial next week for those who need instructions to use Canvas.
* It was decided that a space on the faculty senate website will be used for the web presence. This will be used to communicate out to campus. The meeting minutes will be posted there. If there is anything else you feel should be posted there let David or Shauna know.
* Election of chairs was discussed. Nominations are open until Friday, January 12 at 12:00pm. Anyone interested in serving as a chair should send a short bio by then. Voting will open Friday afternoon and close at 12:00pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.
* Subgroups will be formed to go out and meet with people/businesses and bring back reports. Funds may be available if needed.
* Conversations could also be held in schools/colleges and information brought back to this group. This should be an open conversation.
* Still working on bringing someone from Dixie.
* Invitation was sent out regarding attending AAC&U in Philadelphia on February 15-17. Anyone interested in attending should let David know. Will be able to send 4-5 people.

Background of GE at UVU (See PowerPoint link)

* Curriculum is the purview of the faculty. Departments own the requirements for degree programs and are responsible for the assessment of programs.
* General education is not owned by any particular department. No one really owns general education.
* The GE Committee has some role in this. They are housed under the AVP – Academic Programs. Their function is to approve/assess GE courses but not under UCC.
* Has not been a major GE evaluation for 15+ years. Smaller efforts have been attempted.
* If GE is fine then document it and defend it. If not then the slate is open.