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CWU General Education Committee Minutes - 05/10/10

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Central Washington University
General Education Committee
May 10, 2010
Minutes

Present: John Alsoszatai-Petheo, Gregory Brown, Maya Chachava, Cynthia Coe, Bobby Cummings, Duane Dowd, Sharon Rosell, Megan Hammond, James Beaghan, Tracy Pellett, Scott Carlton and Sheryl Grunden.

Absent: Aaron Montgomery

Guests: Loran Cutsinger

Meeting was called to order by chair Cynthia Coe at 2:03 p.m.

Changes to the Agenda - None

Approval of Minutes – Greg moved to approve the April 19, 2010 minutes. Bobby seconded and motion was approved.

Announcements – Cindy announced that while we moved the meeting last week to today, the committee will still be meeting on May 17th as originally planned.

Gen Ed proposal and outcomes – Loran gave a brief update. The Executive Committee took a look at the draft proposal and there are still some items of concern. There are no listed outcomes under the Essential Skills headings. While there are outcomes bulleted above, they felt this needed to be made a little clearer by putting them under each area. The lettered courses do not have outcomes as well as the interdisciplinary courses. When the proposal goes forward to the Faculty Senate it will be presented as an endorsement of the framework. The final proposal (program change) will be submitted after the course paperwork is submitted by the departments and it goes through the curriculum process. Loran indicated that the Executive Committee would like to have the outcomes by their May 26th meeting so it can possibly go on the June 2nd Faculty Senate agenda.

Dr. Pellett indicated that the deans have a number of concerns with the proposal. He suggested that the committee may want to wait before moving the proposal forward. Dr. Pellett indicated he would hate to have something come forward to Faculty Senate that administratively is not bought into. Some of the administrative concerns that Dr. Pellett reported were about the impact on transfer students, implementation of interdisciplinary courses, and the complication of having lettered courses as well as breadth requirements. There was some debate about the level of communication between the administration and Faculty Senate around the concerns expressed by Dr. Pellett, and how best to proceed from this point.

Sheryl indicated that the printed catalog deadline is February, so any changes would have to be done by January for it to be effective fall of 2011. The new general education program would probably go into effect in fall 2012.

Scott expressed that the lettered courses make it harder for students to make it through the process, particularly for transfer students who do not come in with an AA degree. However, Sheryl and Scott agreed that the current program is harder for transfer students to complete.

Loran suggested that we can work on an expedited process of transfer students to help make it easier for them.

Assessment – Dr. Pellett presented information from the University Academic Assessment Committee. NWCCU accreditation indicated that a focused assessment on general education has not been done. A report is due fall of 2011 that needs to show some significant process in assessment. Approximately 50% of Central's students transfer in and don't take our general education requirements; it is harder to assess those students. The current plan is to assess several of the current general education goals each year, starting with essential skills first. Dr. Pellett talked about some of the indirect assessment that has been done via surveys through institutional research and alumni. Now we need to focus on course embedded assessment. Dr. Pellett has been in contact with departments that current offer W courses to talk about assessment. He will be meeting with ADCO today and will be sending a letter to department chairs. A committee is working on developing a writing rubric. Departments will be given some guidelines on how many they should assess. Dr. Pellett's office will collect and aggregate the data and bring that information back to the General Education committee. Faculty will be given training on how to use the rubric.

Loran expressed some concern about the cost and faculty time for this training.

Petitions/appeals (if any) - None

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Next meeting May 17, 2010 Barge 412