AS-GE COMMITTEE
Friday, November 18th, 2011
10 am – 11:30 am – HC 124

Members present:  Sara McKinnon, Chair, A.Joe Ritchie, Chris Schultz, Meg Pasquel, Susan Rahman, Kathleen Smyth.  Absent:  Yolanda Bellisimo, Karen Robinson

This meeting centered on reviewing and analyzing examples of other GE programs from both community colleges and four-year universities. We looked at examples from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orange Coast</th>
<th>Chico and Davis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evergreen Valley (&amp; SJ CC)</td>
<td>UCB</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Mateo CCD/DVC</td>
<td>UCSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDCCD/Miracosta</td>
<td>UCSD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other CCCs</td>
<td>USF and Dominican</td>
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<td>SRJC</td>
<td>Sonoma State</td>
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Ideas for framing our program
- One member felt that we should create a set of goals and outcomes first and then go from there. The idea is to create a pre-amble, a philosophy statement, the framework with outcomes and/or objectives.
- We looked at Diablo Valley College which lists the objectives that the DVC faculty had agreed were paramount. These were grouped under the headings of ability, knowledge, skills and appreciation. DVC also wrote SLOs for each area.
- DVC also had additional areas including Ecology of Health and Information Competency. These and the Math in American Institutions showed 0-X number of units required.
- MiraCosta included categories and sub-categories and including one for “self-development”.
- MiraCosta’s COR handbook including the criteria for what should be in GE courses under specific categories.

Who are students are:
- We should inform our teaching honestly to the students we have, not the ones we wished we had. We have a different crop!
- We need to give extra preparation and support since they are not coming in with the same level of skills we had in our day.
- Add flex training to help faculty reconsider their approaches to assignments. This does NOT mean “dumbing down” what one does. It means building bridges.
- It means providing additional scaffolding, ways of breaking down assignments so that students learn the process.
- If a course you are teaching is on the GE list, it should have a connection to the GE outcomes listed ON the syllabus.
- Some schools have students create portfolios in which students write their educational values and goals and update it every semester. They may have a kind of capstone course that will entail critical thinking and other outcomes in it.
**Creating GE program webpage(s) on the college website:**
- Easily understandable explanations of outcomes could be given for each category
- Descriptions of some or all courses,
- What students would learn and what they might be required to do,
- Why this area is important,
- How it will be applicable in students’ lives
- Interviews with students who have taken various courses in the area.
- Explain that the plate of GE courses is intended to provide a nutritional balanced diet – to give them a balanced set of skills and knowledge with which to go forward in their lives.
- Create ready-made assignments that could be given to all faculty to do with their students – that would require the students to visit the website, answer questions, think about what they’d like to take, fill out a GE worksheet (perhaps one for all three areas to see if there is overlap so they’d be ready for any contingency).

**Regarding the survey proposed in last month’s meeting:**
- Give a checklist as to whether faculty do each of these competencies in their classes.
- Why is your GE class helpful to students in their future?
- Do you give assignments that cover the 5 GE areas (written/oral/visual communication, quantitative and scientific reasoning, problem solving, critical thinking, and info literacy)?

**For Spring 2012:**
Committee will create a “press release” to be given out at convocation in spring with dates for open meetings during the spring semester inviting people to participate in the discussion.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 2nd at 10 am in HC 124 if available or in HC 128 as a back up. Committee members will bring their proposals for a GE philosophy and objectives to frame the discussion.