

Status of General Education Program Review

Ferris State University, as of April 2011

The General Education Program Review is being facilitated by a General Education Task Force (GETF) made up of representatives from across campus. See end of document for charge and current membership of GETF.

The timeline of completed and anticipated elements of the program review are given below.

August 2008:

Academic Program Review Report for the General Education Program was submitted to the Academic Senate with several recommendations for improvement including a comprehensive, campus-wide review/revision of the program. Recommendations were approved by the Academic Senate in December, 2008 and a General Education Task Force charged with conducting the campus-wide review was jointly appointed by the Academic Senate and the division of Academic Affairs.

February 2009:

General Education Coordinator (Heck) and Associate VPAA (Flickinger) attended AACU Conference in Baltimore on General Education.

April 2009:

General Education Task Force first met.

May 2009:

A Town hall meeting open to entire campus was held to get input on the question "What should a graduate of FSU know, be able to do, and be like?" as a way of beginning to frame Gen Ed learning outcomes.

August 2009 during week before classes:

Art Chickering gave a presentation to campus about general education: trends, need for, review process.

FSU General Education Coordinator gave presentation to campus on current program and review process.

As part of the above presentations, feedback was solicited from attendees on the learning outcomes suggested at the May town hall meeting.

Fall 2009 Semester:

Online "Groups" site was created for GETF in MyFSU so Gen Ed Review documents, updates, announcements, readings, etc. can be made available to entire campus community. The GETF Group is open for anybody on campus to join provided they have access to MyFSU.

*NOTE: To join the MyFSU Gen Ed Task Force Group and have access to the task force documents: **Log in to MyFSU; Click the "Groups" icon at top right; Click "Groups Index"; Click "Academic"; Click "Gen Ed Task Force"; Click "Join Group".** Once you have joined the GETF Group you will only need to click the Groups icon and the GETF Group will show up on your list of Groups.*

Two town hall meetings were held to get input on what should be included in a Gen Ed philosophy statement.

Draft philosophy statement was produced by the GETF.

Two more town hall meetings were held to get feedback on the draft philosophy statement.

Revised draft of philosophy statement was produced by the GETF and circulated campus-wide for feedback.

Spring 2010 Semester:

Revised draft of philosophy statement was presented to the Academic Senate for feedback.

Second revised draft of the philosophy statement was produced by the GETF based on feedback from campus and Academic Senate.

Second revised draft was presented to the Academic Senate and approved by that body.

“General Education at Ferris State University challenges students to be successful citizens of a diverse and globalized world.”

Six GETF members (Adsmund, Feutz, Flickinger, Heck, Lashaway-Bokina, Wahl) attended the AACU Conference in Seattle on General Education (reports from this and 2009 conference can be found on MyFSU GETF Group site).

Spring 2010 Semester:

Two town hall meetings took place at the end of the semester to continue discussion of learning outcomes, informed by: 1) previous town hall and feedback on outcomes (May and August, 2009), 2) existing outcomes of current program, 3) what we have learned from AACU conferences, 4) assorted readings on national trends in General Education learning outcomes, and 5) newly adopted Gen Ed Philosophy Statement.

Summer 2010 Semester:

GETF met May, June, July, August to plan for upcoming academic year and to begin writing a draft of SLOs for the campus to respond to in the Fall. Campus-wide email went out asking people to submit their ideas for SLOs...perhaps 3 or 4 people responded. Same email went out in September a week after classes began, again with low response.

Fall 2010 Semester:

GETF met every 2 to 3 weeks during the semester to plan for semester activities and edit suggested SLOs into a manageable list for distribution to campus.

September/October: Task Force discussed and agreed on a rough draft of student learning outcomes to be distributed to the campus for feedback.

October/November: Task force representatives met with each college (except Pharmacy and Optometry) to provide an update on the process, present the concept of campus-wide learning outcomes with LEAP as a possible framework, begin discussion of the rough draft of SLOs, and to take questions and get feedback about the process.

November: Two town-hall meetings were held to talk about and receive feedback on the LEAP “Knowledge” area outcomes.

December: Two town-hall meetings were held to talk about and receive feedback on the LEAP “Skills” area outcomes.

Spring 2011 Semester:

GETF met every 2 to 3 weeks during the semester to plan for semester activities and revise the rough draft according to the feedback from town hall meetings.

January: Revised draft of the Knowledge and Skills areas outcomes was created and discussed by GETF, and presented at the January Senate meeting for feedback.

January: Two town-hall meetings were held to talk about and receive feedback on the initial rough draft of the LEAP “Personal and Social Responsibility” area outcomes.

February: Two town-hall meetings were held to talk about and receive feedback on the initial rough draft of the LEAP “Integration” area outcome.

February: Task force finalizes a fully revised set of outcomes based on the feedback from town-hall meetings and other received comments.

March: Full set of revised outcomes presented to Academic Senate for their consideration.

March: Task-force members attend AACU conference on general education in Chicago.

March: Two town-hall meetings were held to talk about and receive campus feedback on the fully revised set of outcomes.

April: Task force met to discuss and modify the fully revised draft of outcomes based on town-hall and other feedback. A final draft was produced that will be presented to the Academic Senate at their April 4 meeting. The task force will recommend that the senate approve these University-Wide Student Learning Outcomes before the end of the Spring semester.

Tentative future plan for review of the General Education program:

Summer and Fall 2011:

The task force will meet several times over the summer to begin articulating what exactly will be expected of a student who has achieved each outcome. The VALUE (from AACU) and other rubrics will be used as starting points to clarify our expectations about what it means to achieve the outcomes.

Fall 2011 and Spring 2012:

Decisions will be made on how to achieve and assess the agreed upon learning outcomes. This process will follow our practice to date and will involve multiple town-hall and GETF meetings as well as feedbacks and approvals from the Academic Senate. This part of the process will involve how the program will be structured in terms of:

1) **when** (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) in the student's university experience particular outcomes will be best achieved and assessed, 2) **where** (majors courses, GE courses, co-curriculum) in the student's university experience particular outcomes will be best achieved and assessed, 3) strategies for **how** the outcomes will be best achieved and assessed, 4) distribution of credit hours across the outcome areas, 5) how to be "transfer friendly", and 6) no doubt many other issues related to program structure.

Other relevant discussions during this time will involve: 1) development of a plan for implementing the revised program, 2) availability and allocation of resources (human, material, financial) for implementing and sustaining the program, 3) need for faculty development to achieve the desired program, 4) creation of an assessment plan for the program that will be "meaningful, manageable and sustainable", 5) development of a plan to advertise/market the program to all constituents including students/parents/community, and 6) no doubt a host of other important issues.

Attendance at other Gen Ed conferences by GETF members may also take place during this time.

Fall 2012:

Implementation of the revised program begins; although frankly, it could be Fall 2013 depending on how quickly the preceding aspects of the review process take place. A recurring theme at the AACU conferences is that the revision process nearly always takes longer than originally planned. The attitude of the GETF is that it will be better to take longer and achieve a result the university as a whole is happy with rather than rushing to produce something that many are not happy with.

TO: General Education Task Force
 FROM: Don Flickinger, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
 SUBJECT: First Task Force Meeting April 3, 2009, 3:00 – 4:30 PM, FLITE 133
 DATE: March 18, 2009 *

The Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Senate has agreed to create a General Education Task Force (GETF) for the purpose of reviewing Ferris State University General Education. The charge to this group, as articulated in the "Guidelines for the General Education Task Force As Reviewed and Approved by Senate President Griffin and Assistant VP Flickinger" is to review all historical University general education documents, gather information and knowledge for discussion related to the 21st Century bachelor degree student general education needs, create a comprehensive and effective General Education philosophy statement, identify learning outcomes for General Education that can be assessed, identify criteria for what would or would not meet such outcomes, consider course allocation, and develop an implementation timeline for any General Education changes that might occur. The General Education Task Force membership is to include: one representative from each college; two student representatives; the general education coordinator; UCC Chairperson; APRC Chairperson; the Assistant VPAA or VPAA; one Dean or Associate Dean; the President of the Senate; the Vice President of the Senate; and one representative from Student Affairs. GETF members should be chosen by the Senate President and the VPAA. Tenure-track faculty chosen for GETF should be tenured.

General Education taskforce membership agreed upon by Senate President (from 2008-2009) Rick Griffin and Assoc. VPAA Flickinger:

AHS

Lisa Wall,

AS

Dan Adsmond

BUS

Nate Tymes

EHS

Nancy Lashaway-Bokina

ET

Mike Feutz

OPT

PHR

Elsie Lovestead

Librarians/Counselors

Randall Schroeder

UC

Terry Doyle

Adjunct Faculty

Tracy Busch *(replaced Tom Jorsch beginning Su 2010)*

Student Affairs

Kristen Salomonson

Dean/Associate Dean

Van Edgerton

General Education Coordinator

Fred Heck

APRC

Matt Wagenheim *(replaced Doug Haneline beginning Su 2010)*

UCC

Leonard Johnson

Senate President

Doug Haneline *(replaced Rick Griffin beginning Su 2010)*

Past-Senate President

Rick Griffin

Senate Vice President

Mike Berghoef

VPAA Office

Provost Fritz Erickson
 Assistant VP Don Flickinger

Two Students from Student Government

*(2009-2010 Membership List Up-dated 6/29/10 by Fred Heck to reflect:
 Tracy Busch replacing Tom Jorsch; Matt Wagenheim replacing Doug Haneline; Doug Haneline replacing Rick Griffin. Griffin remains on GETF by agreement of Senate E-board and VPAA as someone invested, knowledgeable and active in the revision process. Randall Schroeder replaces Paul Kammerdiner, 9/20/10.)