



FACULTY MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

3:35 PM – Heritage Commons

I. Approval of the draft minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting.

These minutes were distributed with the agenda.

II. Reports

- A. Don Birx, President
- B. Julie Bernier, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- C. Annette Holba, Chair, General Education Review Task Force (GERTF) (Executive summary distributed earlier and with the agenda)
- D. Wendy Palmquist, Chair of General Education, **(Attachment 1)**

III. Old Business

None

IV. New Business

None

V. Adjournment

ANNOUNCEMENTS and the 2016 DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS awards ceremony will follow Adjournment.

ATTACHMENT 1

General Education Committee
Spring Report
May 4, 2016

After a Fall semester filled with many sunset renewals, the General Education Committee had a far more philosophical Spring semester. At the request of the Deans we extended the sunset deadline for courses due this Spring for one year, if departments desired to take advantage of that, to give them more time to consider URSA and Cluster issues. Not surprisingly, most departments chose to take advantage of the extension. This left for us the task of looking at how the pilot program to examine Learning Outcomes for Gen Ed Directions courses that several faculty had volunteered to try in the Fall semester, as part of the Assessment project in response to questions from NEASC. We received reports from the participants, read and discussed them, then met with (or received added responses from) those participants, to talk about the experience of using the Learning Outcomes. One conclusion (no surprise here!) was that it would be much more useful if the Learning Outcomes were available when a course is being designed, rather than imposed on an existing course. Clarissa Utley is working on the final report on that project.

Two smaller projects are also near completion. The Gen Ed handbook has been brought up to date, and progress is being made on questions on the Gen Ed course evaluation form.

Several campus initiatives are clearly going to have an impact on our Gen Ed. First, the Cluster model in development now is something that many feel should be incorporated somehow into our Gen Ed program. Second, the gradual move to four credit courses will also mean we need to look at how Gen Ed will be affected by that, as departments put together their revised programs. Finally, at our second April meeting, we received the report from the Gen Ed Task Force, and discussed it with members of the Task Force. The committee agreed with the vast majority of the points raised, and has decided next year will be spent considering how to put all these pieces together. It is highly likely that all sunsets will be suspended next year, as we look at how to pull all these initiatives into a changing Gen Ed program.