**Fall 2013**

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The fall of 2013 was a quiet one for the Gen Ed committee. Because of the intensive work in 2012/13 to review and revise courses on the AGEC list and to develop curriculum maps that indicated GECCO benchmark courses in all AAS programs, the college’s gen ed curriculum is largely up-to-date. All AGEC courses are now aligned with the appropriate general education program outcome and a system is in place via the Curriculum committee to ensure that these courses stay aligned even as they are updated. Work on the curriculum maps continues, but the emphasis has now shifted from the Gen Ed committee, which oversaw the development of the college’s General Education Core Curriculum Outcomes, to the SLOA committee, which is tasked with collecting evidence that those outcomes are being achieved in each degree program.

In fact, no curriculum proposals were submitted to the Gen Ed committee until after that committee’s last scheduled meeting on November 9th, and therefore the committee never had occasion to meet in the fall semester. This left those few late proposals in limbo. This is obviously a problem that needs to be fixed, as the Gen Ed committee needs to be able to review relevant curriculum and advise the Curriculum committee AFTER the deadline for submissions for the following year’s catalog but BEFORE the final Curriculum committee meeting of the year in early December. The current schedule of meeting on the second Friday of the month does not fall within that time period. A new meeting schedule will be developed in the spring of 2014, to be implemented in the following fall.

While the committee was largely quiescent, the Gen Ed Coordinator was quite busy in her role as Gen Ed representative on the SLOA committee. The assessment plan that has been developed over the prior two years was rolled out in the fall of 2013. Using Banner to collect assessment data proved very successful. Using the rubrics developed in the GECCO working group meetings from fall 2012, faculty across the curriculum submitted their assessments of students’ oral and written communication skills. There were very few technical glitches, all quickly solved, and nearly 80% of faculty submitted their data by the end of the semester. More reports, largely from dual-enrollment classes, were submitted over the winter break, and efforts are underway to track down the remaining few missing reports. Data from over 150 courses have been submitted so far, assessing ten students in each class. A similar amount of data will be collected in the spring of 2014, as well as both semester of next year. The initial reports based on this data is scheduled to be presented to the faculty at the fall 2014 Employee Day.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from those faculty who participated in the fall 2013 assessment procedure. But the initial trial also revealed some unanticipated problems, like accounting for the later end dates of dual-enrollment classes, and some confusion about how general education skills relate to the outcomes of the AAS programs. There will be inevitable revisions to the collection process as these problems are worked out. The Gen Ed coordinator will continue to work with SLOA, as well as the college’s Institutional Research office, to further refine our ongoing Gen Ed assessment efforts.