General Education Program Assessment Plan for 2002-2003

The General Education and Honors Committee has reviewed and approved a General Education Assessment Plan for the 2002-2003 academic year (see p. 2). This plan represents the work of about 20 faculty who participated in an all day workshop led by Dr. James Nichols, a nationally recognized expert on higher education outcomes assessment. This workshop was the seventh step in a semester long process which began with an SNC workshop on writing intended learning outcomes statements and a targeted workshop which produced possible outcomes statements for all GS areas, critical thinking, values, and writing. The unedited list of statements was sent to all faculty teaching general studies as well as members of the General Education Committee and the Dean for review and prioritization. This review produced a short list (two outcomes per GS area) which was published in the last newsletter. Having invited and received comment from the faculty at large, the short list of outcomes statements was endorsed by the General Education Committee. An assessment plan was developed during the Nichols workshop, based on this short list. During the workshop, a subset of GS areas was selected for assessment during the 2002-2003 academic year, the outcomes statements were revised as needed, and finally means of assessment were identified. Team suggestions were reviewed by all workshop participants as well as Dr. Nichols.

The workshop results were assembled into a draft plan, reviewed by the Institutional Effectiveness Team, and sent back to workshop participants and members of the General Education Committee for review and comment. After making modest changes based on this feedback, the plan was approved by the General Education and Honors Committee on May 2, 2002. The plan is now being shared with the entire SNC community--your comments on the plan are welcome.

Throughout this process an effort has been made to keep the plan as simple and workable as possible. Even this simplified plan will require considerable additional work prior to implementation. To implement this plan in 2002-2003, the OIE under Dr. Kristee Boehm’s capable leadership, will need to accomplish a great deal this summer, including meeting with faculty teaching in areas 4, 5, 8, 1, and 12. We hope to work with these faculty to identify or incorporate a course assignment which directly addresses the learning outcome statement. The plan deliberately involves the faculty only in the collection of direct evidence. By using imbedded measures and an assessment rubric, faculty will not be required to do any more than is normally required to grade these assignments. The supporting evidence section of the plan (column 5) identifies all of the relevant data already available on campus. These data will be collected, summarized and communicated to the relevant units by the OIE.

Finally, this plan has been designed for and will only be utilized during the 2002-2003 academic year. Future plans will likely highlight other general studies areas. All subsequent plans will continue to be developed in collaboration with the General Education and Honors Committee and faculty teaching in each general studies area.

PROJECT FUNDING SUMMARY

The OIE thus far has funded 15 summer projects for a total of $39,680.00.

The OIE wishes everyone a satisfying and productive summer!
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