

Status Report on Consultation Meetings with Campus Community regarding GE Council, November 12, 2009

Feedback has been positive and constructive. Academic Councils of AMC, ECS, EDUC, HUM, OVIATT, SBS, and SM have been visited. Meetings are scheduled with BE, HHD, and the Council of Chairs. An Open Forum will take place on December 10 at 15:30 in the Oviatt Presentation Room, following the Senate meeting. Advertisements for this meeting will go out soon.

Authority and oversight

All agreed that the current workload was too big for EPC. The biggest concerns are how will the GE Council and EPC relate to each other and address similar and overlapping issues, for example courses that could be used for credit in the major and in GE.

Committee Structure

Opinion is divided on this issue. Several think that an independent committee could create territorial ambiguity with EPC. As a sub-committee, this would not occur and issues of overlap would be more easily addressed. A compromise could be starting the Council as a subcommittee of EPC, then changing it to an independent standing committee once the territorial issues have been worked out. In addition, this would allow for quick implementation of the GE Council because no by-law change is needed.

Others favor the GE Council as an independent committee, but for different reasons. One college noted that GE is enormous, has a "separate life," and, although its pieces live in the individual departments (and may also play roles in departmental majors), is a program in its own right. Another was concerned that if the GE Council was a subcommittee, its decisions might be influenced or overturned by EPC. One college asks if the GE Council would have the ability to consider resource implications, as it feels that this is becoming taboo in EPC.

Committee Membership

All colleges to date favor the first membership model, or a variation similar to it. Ideas/issues include:

- 1) the requirement of at least one lecturer who teaches GE. Concerns are that this person should not be counted in the limit of reps from a college and that it would be too hard to implement
- 2) the Senate gives the four big colleges an additional representative. These colleges should also have more representation on the GE Council
- 3) there should be some overlap between GE Council and EPC so that two members should serve on both, or at least, a non-voting representative from EPC should attend GE Council meetings.

Faculty Program Director of GE

All thought that creation of this position is a necessary and positive move and agreed that the director must be faculty. They caution that clear direction must be given to avoid possible overlap of authority and responsibilities with the existing Director of University Assessment, department assessment coordinators and current assessment authority/structure.

Next Step

After completing the consultation process, the Task Force will draft a report to Senate Exec concerning the authority, structure, and membership of the GE Council that incorporates suggestions from and potential solutions to the concerns of the campus community.