

Capacity-Building Task Force for General Education Assessment

Progress Report
February 10, 2010

I. Project Beginnings

Over the summer, the idea of a capacity-building task force for general education assessment took shape as the newly appointed interim undergraduate dean and provost recognized the importance of assessment efforts for accreditation and beyond. The associate dean for curriculum invited select faculty with assessment knowledge to participate in the task force. All accepted the invitation to serve the institution in this way. The task force comprises faculty members Sandy Brownscombe, Jeanne Horst, Terry Jantzi, Judy Mullet, and Walt Surratt as well as BJ Miller and Beth Aracena.

II. Fall Meetings

The task force met on August 28, September 14, November 9 and December 14 during fall semester. The initial meetings helped define the scope of the project, goals, methodology, and timeline. The later meetings allowed the group to share and discuss information, report on progress, analyze issues, and define next steps. *Guiding Principles* were established for the task force and scholarly articles about approaches to general education were disseminated to provide direction. One explicit goal was to create a rubric for each curriculum area that would provide a direct measure of student learning in the general education program. The rubrics build on the course objectives designed by faculty last year. Each of the task force members was matched to areas within general education and met with departments or chairs to determine how best to proceed in order to move the assessment process one step forward.

III. Methodology

The task force invited input from department chairs to determine the best methodology for the areas. Some chairs, as in the case of Life Wellness, were able to define assessment practices almost immediately. Other chairs offered to meet with the task force members to draft rubrics before inviting broader faculty response. Others chose to come together as a larger group for open input. Task force members brought draft rubrics to the task force meetings for analysis and feedback to bring to departments and chairs.

IV. Sharing Work with Faculty

Task force progress during the 2009-10 academic year will be shared at the April 19, 2010 UG Faculty Meeting, and faculty response will be invited. Assessment plans for the EMU Core should be in place for fall 2010.