Present: Cole Davidson, Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Andrew Mara, Larry Peterson, Seth Rasmussen, Amy Rupiper Taggart, Carolyn Schnell, and Beth Twomey.

Recorder: Kelly Hoyt

Unable to attend: Rajesh Kavasseri, Cynthia Naughton, Lisa Nordick, Susan Ray-Degges, Kent Sandstrom, Herbert Snyder, and Kevin Walsh.

1. The minutes from 02/25/14 emailed on 02/25/14 were approved.

UPDATES:

• Larry met with Casey Peterson from Student Success Programs and Becky Bahe from Residence Life yesterday to discuss the possibility of having freshman come in earlier than the regular semester start date to do an accelerated 189 course.
  ➢ They did not think this would be an issue as some learning communities are already asking students to come earlier. The learning communities could be considered a pilot for such an effort.
  ➢ They have already been having discussions about how to make the Welcome Week events more effective and this could work well with that.
  ➢ If we planned to implement this in Fall of 2016, they would need to know by Summer of 2015 so they can work this into their budgeting cycle.
  ➢ They did not think the additional cost would be much for either the students or the campus.
    ✓ Having the Resident Assistants come in earlier might be an issue and additional cost. This would have to be looked into.

• Larry sent out some handouts to the committee via email about the new GE model at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) and The Learning Goals and Global Competence from Michigan State University (MSU).
  ➢ UMKC includes three types of courses: Focus, Anchor and Discourse. Students take four Focus courses from these three areas: Arts and Humanities, Scientific Reasoning and Quantitative Analysis, and/or Human Actions, Values and Ethics. Students also complete three pairs of complementary classes called Anchor and Discourse classes. The Anchor class stresses interdisciplinary and critical thinking in a team-learning environment. The Discourse class is smaller and students develop strong speaking and writing skills, using content from the paired Anchor classes. The third pair is built around a community engagement experience in which students apply their classroom learning to real-world challenges in the community.
    ✓ Amy noted that sometimes when courses are taught in a team approach, the smaller ("discourse") class can seem not as important as the other course being taught. She wants to ensure that this doesn’t happen if we take this approach.
  ➢ MSU has Integrative Studies Programs in Arts and Humanities, General Sciences, and Social Sciences which focus on GE courses for non-majors.

• Larry also sent out a First Year Experience handout that he and Carolyn received at the Professional Advisor’s meeting yesterday from Connie Eggers (she recently attended the annual First Year Experience Conference).
  ➢ This handout displayed current national trends at campuses.
The model we are using is the most common model, but others are being incorporated.

- The handout included some good information on common readings for First Year Experiences.

2. We continued to review draft BC/GE Model
   - Amy suggested having a completed model in place by the end of the semester so we can determine the funding needs for this model and then present it to the new Provost and campus for input.
     - Larry reminded the committee that even though we may have a solid model, it will be subject to changes based on the feedback from the campus.
     - He also reminded the committee that the model may need to be rolled out in phases due the significant changes that are being made.
   - Amy asked if we had voted on COMM 200 yet.
     - A lot of committee members thought we had, but nobody was able to recollect what the vote was.
     - It was suggested that Kelly review the minutes and this could be discussed at the next meeting.
     - After some discussion, it was decided to vote on the motion made by Amy to approve COMM 200 as a 1+1+1 course. Marion seconded the motion. Committee approved unanimously.

   **NOTE:** After the meeting Kelly located in the minutes from 11/12/13 that this was indeed voted on previously: “Lisa moved to have a 3 credit, sophomore level course, with English 120 and Communication 110 as pre-requisites, RaNelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.”

   - Amy asked if we had voted on the First Year Experience and 189 yet.
     - The committee thought we had not voted on this yet.
     - Amy moved to approve this as a 3 credit course. Marion seconded the motion. Carolyn added a friendly amendment that this is based on having financial support to implement this component. The committee approved unanimously.

   **NOTE:** After the meeting, Kelly located in the minutes from 12/3/13 that the lengthy motion made by Cynthia and seconded by Seth was going to be voted on via email. (Please see the 12/3/minutes for the motion). The minutes from 12/10/13 note the following: “Critical Thinking – Via email voting, the committee voted yes on creating a 3 credit first year experience requirement that combines the existing 189 material with the equivalent of at least two credits of critical thinking.”

   - Also from the minutes for 12/10/13: “Seth advocated having an embedded critical thinking course, either integrated in the major or embedded in general education that would not be any additional credits beyond the 36 general education credits that are required.
     - Lisa moved to approve a designated critical thinking course (with First Year Critical Thinking as a pre-requisite) either integrated into the Bison Learning Core or into the student’s major. Marion seconded that motion. Cole, RaNelle and Kent abstained from voting and the motion was approved by the rest of the committee.”

- Amy moved to require a three-credit, lower division, quantitative based critical thinking course. Andy, Beth, and Marion all seconded the motion. The committee approved unanimously.
3. At Cole’s suggestion, Larry advocated that members think about the embedded courses for our topic of discussion at the next meeting and reviewing the remaining components.
   - Amy indicated she would like to discuss where service learning fits into the model at this point.

Next meeting, Tuesday, March 11 at 9 am in Peace Garden