Summary Notes
General Education Review Working Group
October 1, 2010
2:00 – 3:10
Attending: Jess Aki, Frank Fenlon, Ross Egloria, Jerry Saviano, Carol Hiraoka, Joy Nagaue, Guy Shibayama, Craig Ohta, Steven Chu, Mike Barros, Cynthia Smith
Guest: Sterling Foster

Chair
Jerry Saviano and Jess Aki will serve as co-Chairs
Cynthia will take minutes

Working Group Charge

The need to review the general education requirements for all CTE programs is to address areas where the College does not meet Accreditation Standard criteria, as well as address findings of the Underprepared Task Force. Also, the College’s Gen Ed requirements for A.S., A.A.S. and A.T.S. degrees have not been reviewed or revised for decades.

Background information

Jerry reviewed background documents given to the committee including: Accreditation eligibility criteria related to general education; Standard II criteria and HCC planning agenda items related to general education review; examples from general education requirements in other U.S. CTE programs; and excerpts from recommendations of the 1994 UH system A.S. Degree Task Force (not acted upon.) He also called attention to current Gen Ed requirements as listed in the catalog.

Current requirements

The group discussed the fact that some Gen Ed choices do not meet WASC-ACCJC requirements in terms of skills (writing, computation) nor the expected range of knowledge in humanities/social sciences/sciences areas.

The goal is to ensure electives students choose meet WASC-ACCJC expectations of general education skills and knowledge acquired from a technical degree program. This will mean reviewing all gen ed requirements to clarify what slos/hallmarks are taught. Then, CTE programs will review their program requirements, including electives suggested or mandated, to ensure gen ed needs for that program’s slos are met by gen ed classes their students are required to take.

Key points to consider

One of the concerns is and will be scheduling. If programs limit the choices of general education electives, sometimes these recommended/required courses are not offered when program students are available to take them.

Another concern programs might have is number of Gen Ed credits, if added, increasing credit load students must fulfill.
In the past some faculty have voiced concern that requiring more demanding gen ed core will result in decline in student enrollments. It was asserted that in practice, for those programs which have intensified gen ed requirements, there has not been a demonstrated loss of student numbers.

The requirement is that the course be College-level (does not necessarily mean transfer level.)

It was affirmed that programs are aware of the critical need that students acquire requisite skills.

It was discussed that some work on mapping program slos to course slos, including general education courses, has been done and can be referenced for this review task. Need to integrate that work with these current efforts.

It was agreed that the first steps should be review, revision and categorization of liberal arts classes listed as fulfilling gen ed requirements. Once that is done, then CTE program faculty can use this information to review their specific program needs – based in part of results of mapping – to revise gen ed recommendations and/or requirements.

**Action Steps to be taken (before next meeting)**

Jerry and Carol will review and revise existing courses listed under skills of Communication, and Quantitative or Logical Reasoning, and delete from list those that are not addressing WASC-ACCJC requisite skills.

Ross, Frank, Jerry and Cynthia will initiate drafting list of hallmarks/slos to reflect the WASC-ACCJC Standard criteria for gen ed learning outcomes. Will also begin process of revising categorization under ‘Other areas’ (perhaps based on existing Diversification Hallmarks) including rethinking grouping designations, evaluating what courses are still active, and which belong in these categories (based on course slos).

Mike will find out status of mapping outcomes and documents for Tech I and Tech II programs.

**Next meeting**

October 22, 2:00 place tba