

## General Education Review Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 12, 2009

Catonsville Campus, Pullen Room

2:00-4:00 P.M.

Members present: Penny Fanzone, Susan Gabriel, Donna Rongione, Linda Gronberg-Quinn, Ellen Lathrop-Davis, Bernie Noeller, Rose Mince, Rob Hess, Meisha McGuire Grimes, and Kathy Lilley (for Maureen O'Brien)

Note: there is no representative from the School of Health Professions

Presenters: Jack McLaughlin and Laura Le Mire

Guests: Mike Netzer, Buck Workman, Debbie Hutchinson, Willa Brooks

1. The minutes from the September 14, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.
2. The last two fall semester meeting dates and locations were confirmed: November 9, Catonsville (Wilmer) and December 7, Essex (A 254.)
3. Planning for the General Education Symposium was tabled until the next meeting. Rose will send members a copy of an article by Mark Taylor, entitled "Meet the Students: Finding Common Ground between Student and Institutional Goals". Taylor may be a potential keynote speaker for the Symposium.
4. Penny Fanzone shared a draft of the Faculty Survey that she created as a Word document. Rob Hess agreed to gather information to determine if the survey can be easily converted into Access so that the results can be automatically tallied. Use of Share Point was also discussed as an option. Rob will report his findings to the committee.
5. Jack McLaughlin and Laura LeMire provided an Executive Summary to supplement the Associate of Science in Engineering Program Proposal. (The General Engineering Option is on "hold" for now.) The Engineering Proposal includes the following General Education requirements: SPCM 101, ENGL 101, ENGL 102, CHEM 121/2, MATH 251, and PHYS 151, and 6 credits of Social and Behavioral Sciences electives (2 three-credit courses). Additional CCBC General Education math and science courses are required and included as Program Requirements. When comparing this proposal to the General Education requirements for a transfer degree at CCBC, the following are missing: a second Arts and Humanities course, a Health and Wellness course, an Information Technology course, and a Global, Historical, and Cultural Perspectives course. The proposal does include the state mandated minimum of 30 credits of General Education, if ENGL 102 or ENGL 101 (whichever is not counted as the completer English Composition class) is counted as an Arts and Humanities course.

Jack and Laura presented evidence to support the adoption of the proposal as submitted. The ASE will be accepted by all public and independent four-year institutions in MD that offer computer and/or electrical engineering degrees. The ASE program outcomes have been mapped to existing CCBC courses. Three new courses need to be developed. Nine schools have participated in the development of the proposal. Students who complete the ASE will not be guaranteed admission to a four-year institution, but if accepted, they will enter with junior

status. There is pressure from the four-year, receiving institutions to keep the number of ASE credits as low as possible. There is the hope that having this agreement and a lower number of required credits will increase the number of students who stay at CCBC to earn an engineering degree before transferring.

The dilemma that the committee faces is whether or not to waive the General Education credits/categories that are required for CCBC transfer degrees. This is an old debate. The balance of career preparation with a liberal arts focus is one that many programs and institutions struggle with. GERB practice in the past has been to require as many credits of General Education courses as can possibly be allowed. There have been exceptions granted in the past for other programs, including some AAT degrees.

Guests from the School of Business, Social Science, Wellness, and Education spoke in support of requiring the Engineering proposal to include as many credits of General Education as will be allowed by MHEC, with the emphasis on the need to maintain the requirements of other CCBC transfer programs and help students have a well-rounded education. Dean Netzer spoke in favor of adoption of the proposal as submitted, emphasizing the need to help students successfully enter four-year STEM programs and graduate with a degree from CCBC.

After deliberation that did not appear able to reach consensus, a vote was postponed until the November meeting so that committee members have more time to speak with their colleagues and ensure that their vote is representative of their constituents. Further research into how other community colleges are handling this proposal, exactly what is allowed by MHEC, and how any additional General Education credits will be accepted by transfer institutions will help determine how much flexibility is possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mince