UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Friday, November 13, 2009 10:00 a.m.

UEAC Members: Russell Lowery-Hart, Larry Garrett, Timothy Gilbert, Rex Peebles, Jeanie Hardin, Juan Carlos Reina, Dorothy Martinez, Betty Reynard, Bill Waggoner, Judith Bean, Agnes DeFranco, Ron Brown, Richard Eglsaer, J. Michael Coleman, Donna Ekal, Friederike Wiedemann, J. Martyn Gunn, Michael J. Ahearn, Ronald Swain, Marianne Hopper, Jessica Woodward
Coordinating Board Staff: MacGregor Stephenson, Kevin Lemoine, Anya Sebastien, Catherine Parsoneault, Lucy Bloor, Janet Beinke, Gabriela Borcoman
Guests: Ginette Serrano-Correa (Proxy for Tommy Thompson), Neill Armstrong (UT, Vice Provost), Jenny Kennedy (UNT System), Rissa Potter (CPUPC), Kevin Jefferies (Alvin CC), Rebecca Williams (Richland College), Gary Elbow (Texas Tech Univ)
Absent: Tommy Thompson

MEETING NOTES

I. Approval of Meeting Summary for September 18, 2009 Meeting

Meeting Notes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Update on membership rotation and committee vacancies

Russell Lowery-Hart thanked the UEAC members who are completing their terms in December. Friederike Wiedemann announced her retirement from the committee and that Midwestern State University will be sending a replacement for the remaining meetings of her term. Special recognition was given to Judith Bean, past co-chair of UEAC.

Nominations for vacant seats on UEAC are due from community colleges, universities and health institutions by December 11. UEAC co-chairs and Board staff will make recommendations to the Commissioner. New members will be invited to the February 2010 UEAC meeting.

III. Update on Accountability System Peer Group Meetings: Discussion of Terms "General Education" and "Core Curriculum"

Janet Beinke presented an update of the Peer Accountability Group meetings recent round of meetings and discussed the timeline to establish learning outcomes and value-added discussion. The second round of meetings will focus on reviewing how items in current core are measured at the basic intellectual competencies, perspectives and component levels. Janet reported that the Peer Group Meetings are requesting that UEAC develop global statements of purpose as soon as possible. These peer groups will then be able to assist UEAC in determining learning outcomes and outcome assessment.

IV. Discussion: Statewide General Education/Core Curriculum Requirements in Other States

Lucy Bloor presented research regarding other states' core curricular requirements. Included were the 10 most populous states, selected SACS states, and states with unique general education programs. The table provided documented a state mandated core curriculum, minimum hours (including restrictions of lower level), core components, transferability, state level learning outcomes and assessment, and links to both core requirements and assessment information. Specifically identified via website links were the policies of California (namely CSU), Alabama and Georgia.

V. Reports and Discussion: Work Groups Preliminary Recommendations Regarding General Education/Core Curriculum Revisions

The co-chairs determined that Group II's report should be presented first to create a better flow of discussion.

b. Group II (DeFranco)

Dr. DeFranco presented the group's recommendation concerning changes at the Coordinating Board level. The group suggested that the core curriculum should focus on both the cognitive and affective domains, and incorporate skills and knowledge that all students should have mastered upon graduation. The group recommended utilizing AAC&U's LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes. DeFranco also outlined a suggested composition of the core with and without legislative changes. Discussion included incorporating assessment concerns and results while considering changes to the core curriculum.

The committee proposed three resolutions regarding the revision of learning outcomes for the General Education Core Curriculum. [Attached document]

a. Group I (Ekal)

Dr. Ekal presented Group II's report concerning possible changes at the student level. Discussion included the option for the inclusion of upper level hours for Bachelor degrees, a capstone course, incorporation of LEAP initiatives, transferability concerns, and allowing for institutional flexibility in learning outcome assessment.

c. Group III (Brown)

Dr. Brown presented Group III's report concerning possible changes at the legislative level. The group discussed incorporating assessment at the Board but not through legislation. With that, the group recommended a faculty/student committee review core courses. Other items for discussion included the reduction of the statute concerning US History and Political Science, reverting to the 45-hour excessive hour cap or only counting attempted upper level hours, and changing the acceptance requirement from "core complete" to "component complete."

Upon conclusion of the three group's presentations and discussions, the committee continued discussion concerning capstone courses and the continuation of general studies to continue through the senior year for SACS assessment purposes.

VI. Consideration of Adopting Recommendations for Purpose/Outcomes for the Statewide General Education Core Curriculum

The committee discussed the possibility of two levels of core completion – one for AA/AS degrees and a larger requirement for baccalaureate degree completers. A motion was made to leave the structure of the core as is with a 42-hour minimum requirement. After discussion, a vote was taken. The motion failed (15 N, 4 Y, 1 A).

A second motion was made for a 36-hour AA/AS and 42-hour baccalaureate level that includes 36 hours at the lower-level. Dr. Eglsaer amended the motion by removing the hour limitation. Dr. Garrett restated the motion: All institutions will require a minimum number of core curriculum hours for a baccalaureate degree and a lower number of hours for an academic associate degree. The baccalaureate degree shall include the same number of hours as the associate degree core at the lower level. The remaining hours may be taught at the upper level.

The amended motion was discussed. The committee approved the amended motion with 12 for and 2 against.

VII. Update on Actions Taken at the October Board meeting

Due to time constraints, this item is tabled until the February UEAC meeting.

VIII. Update on Recommendations for Low-Producing Programs Approved at Last UEAC Meeting

Due to time constraints, this item is tabled until the February UEAC meeting.

IX. Agree on Interim Assignments and Next Meeting Date (February 2010)

The current work groups were given no interim assignments. A small group of UEAC designates will meet in late January to further refine content and assessment of the core for recommendation to UEAC in February.

X. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 3:15 pm

LB
1-8-09