

UNIVERSITY of
NORTHERN COLORADO



COMMISSION ON THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

**MINUTES
January 13, 2005**

Present: Cris de la Torre, Dick Dietz, Jeff Farmer, Cynthia Galovich, Dianna Gray, Jim Keaten, Matt Lang, Kevin Laxalt, Marie Livingston, Mary Schuttler, Vinnie Scalia, Tom Trelogan, and Doug Woody

Absent: David Caldwell, Marcus Embry, and Greg Heald

Cynthia Galovich called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes

Tom Trelogan/Marie Livingston moved to approve the minutes of the December 2 with a minor correction on the last page, first paragraph deleting that sentence. Motion carried.

Tom Trelogan/Marie Livingston moved to approve the minutes of the December 9 meeting with one minor correction at the bottom of the first page, last paragraph. Motion carried.

2. Discussion

Cynthia handed out the General Education Task Force Report from 2000 (page 3 is missing from the report; Sandy will find a full copy and send it to Tom to put on the Web site).

Cynthia handed out a sheet regarding what Physics students wanted in a General Education Program.

Jeff Farmer would like to have a student survey of some sort regarding general education and he would like the Commission to address this. There was a discussion on how to accomplish getting a survey done on general education with the students. Some suggestions were: (1) have SRC do the survey when they do student elections- (but if a survey is done, it needs to represent all colleges); (2) send a survey out by e-mail, or ask a student to represent each department, or do a Student Leadership Conference on general education; (3) send a survey out to students who have graduated in the past few years; (4) give students the Noel-Levitz survey, which includes several general education questions. Dianna Gray from SES will be giving a survey to 1100 students regarding physical activity in early March, and she would be glad to add general education classes to this survey. The commission needs to make sure students are aware of the changes taking effect in Fall 2006, the constraints UNC is operating under due to recent CCHE decisions in regard to general education, and the difficulties this poses for creating an ideal general education program. Finally, when we do the survey we need to make sure that it includes questions on general education with parameters so we get good information and

we give students good information.

It was the consensus of the commission to move incrementally to a core program but to keep the smorgasbord of courses for the time being.

Attention then turned to the need for the commission to focus on a short-term goal for general education. The following three items received some discussion:

- a. It appears that the effect of the new state core coupled with the requirements contained in the performance contract that the university is about to sign will eliminate, without our doing anything at all, a large number of the courses that are included in our present General Education program. So even if we want to retain as many of the current courses as we can in the program that will appear in the *Catalog* in Fall 2006, it's highly likely that we'll be operating with a much smaller list of courses in the basic 35-37 hour core.
- b. We may want to create an integrative component, which could include a freshman experience course or a 3- to 5 credit sequence consisting of a Freshman Seminar I and a Freshman Seminar II.
- c. There will be competition for the 3 to 5 extra credit hours in the new program. This is where foreign languages, multicultural, international, and interdisciplinary courses might have to be included if they're to remain a part of the new program at all.

4. Other

It was brought to the attention of the commission that only courses that are in the State Guaranteed Transfer Courses (gtPathways) can be offered in our 35-37 credit hour core. It was decided that a memo needs to be sent out to departments and programs encouraging them to submit courses for transfer. Tom Trelogan stated that as chair of the General Education Council he would be taking care of this. Vinnie Scalia stated that we should submit all courses for transfer that we might want to be able to include in the new program.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Submitted by

Sandy Pope
Recording Secretary