To: General Education Task Force II  
From: Christina Connor

Re: Minutes Dec. 4 Meeting

Date: Dec. 4 , 2013

Present: Ed Shannon, Carol Bowman, Seth Cluett, Christina Connor, Eric Daffron, Larry D’Antonio, Jackie Skrzynski, Paula Staile-Costa, Alex Olbrecht

**I. ASB Meeting**

* Went well
* 95% of responses mirror the responses from other schools
* Strong desire for financial literacy – “We would be the only school in the country to mandate financial literacy”
* Uses GE to enhance empathy/compassion for those outside of their own POV
* Int’l business faculty stressed an international component

**Suggestion:** Should GE reflect all five schools as a guiding principle? Each school should have a piece of or contribute to the GE curriculum.?

**Suggestion:** We need to be very conscious of the language we use when describing our framework. Define terms for general public. Explain the meaning and logic behind each decision.

**II. Report By Kristen on GE Survey**

Reviewed the information crunched by Kristen and her students on our survey.

**Suggestion:** Could you get the schools to have courses to reflect the themes presented?

BIG THEME CATEGORIES (Titles/category names subject to change)

* Life-long learner
  + Q1.T1&2;T5
  + Q3.T2
* Basic Skills
  + Q1.T7 – Foundation (4%)
  + Q2.T1&2 – Basic Skills (16%)
  + Q2.T4 (32%)
  + Q3.T1 (23%)
* Citizenship
  + Q1.T6 (16%)
  + Q3.T1
* Well-rounded
  + Q1.T3
  + Q2.T3
* Broad-minded
  + Q4.T4
  + Q3.T3

Additional sub-themes, which can be paired with or used to fuel the big themes:

* Find passion
* Self-sufficient (used with citizenship?)
* Curiosity

**III. Discussion on Drafts of Conceptual Frameworks**

We looked at various models written by members of the group and changes to the writing were discussed.

Ed made notes on the changes and areas to possibly include in the final draft to be presented at the faculty.

**Suggestion:** How can the conceptual framework reflect the uniqueness of Ramapo?

**IV. Themes re-worded**

1. *Well Rounded:* breath of knowledge and experience,; emotional intelligence; compassion
2. *Exploring/flexibility:* pivot, adaptability; curiosity; creativity
3. *Citizenship:* connected
4. *Basic skills:* foundations; communications; critical thinking; math; reading; abilities and understandings; empathy; information literacy
5. *Diversity:* compassion; open-mindedness; humanity; knowledge of cultures, art, etc. other than one’s own

**V. Renaming GE?**

The group discussed the possibility of changing the name of general education. The following ideas were discussed, with the idea names may change given how the goals/outcomes are defined:

* Core curriculum
* Foundations
* Integrative studies
* Interdisciplinary studies
* Shared curriculum
* Liberal arts core
* General studies

**VI. GE Presentation to Faculty**

Discussed what will be presented at Faculty Conference

* Process
  + Surveyed college (students, faculty, staff)
* Findings
  + Reviewed and discussed responses
* Draft stage of a conceptual framework
* Next steps to our process

NEXT MEETING : Dec. 18, from 10 am-12noon

* Create presentation
* Outline next steps of process

HOMEWORK for next meeting:

* Read the conceptual framework written by Ed.
* Send Ed possible revisions to the draft