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AQIP Action Project GenEd Curriculum 2009-2010 Summary

UNO Office of Institutional Effectiveness
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General Education Action Project

Kickoff—April, 2009

Completion Date: August 2011

- A. Title: *General Education: Student Learning Goals and Assessment*
- B. The primary goal of the UNO *General Education: Student Learning Goals and Assessment* action project is to complete a review of the current general education curriculum with the establishment of specific student learning goals, assessment and curriculum change processes.
- C. Primary Category: *Helping Students Learn* Related Categories: *Measuring Effectiveness and Planning Continuous Improvement*
- D. For the last three years, the campus has recognized that the current general education curriculum was complex, difficult to assess, and the overall goals for the curriculum were not clearly defined or understood by the faculty, staff, and students. The curriculum nor goals had not been seriously discussed in almost 20 years. In order to address those issues, teams from UNO attended the AAC& U *General Education Institutes* as well as conferences on *General Education and Assessment*. Additionally, a *General Education Task Force* engaged the entire campus in computer facilitated conversations to generate desired student learning outcomes for the general education curriculum. Finally, a 2008-2009 *Task Force on Academic Advising* recognized the important link between a complex and decentralized general education curriculum and problems with academic advising. By declaring general education as an action project, it will focus the campus attention with a timeline that will assist us in completing the review process, developing common student learning outcomes, and a process for on-going assessment and improvement.
- E. *Academic & Student Affairs; Academic Colleges—especially curriculum committees—Arts & Sciences, Business Administration, Communication, Fine Arts & Media; Education; Information Science & Technology, and Public Affairs & Community Service; University Division, and Academic Advisors.*

- F. Academic Advising; Assessment; Curriculum review and development processes at the college and university level—the standing curriculum committees; transfer processes into the university and between academic colleges. These are the areas most affected by general education requirements or are responsible for the curriculum and assessment of general education.
- G. Significant work has been done regarding the articulation of student learning outcomes for General Education as well as a campus commitment to review of general education. Therefore, we believe it is reasonable to move to implementation within two years. Key tasks are: final agreement on student learning outcomes; development of an assessment plan for the SLOs; initiate assessment of designated SLOs; and establish model for on-going assessment and review.
- H. A Gen Ed Action Project steering committee will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the progress of this action project. Additionally, the steering committee will report to the AQIP coordinator as well as the Sr. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Deans' Forum.
- I. Completion of the four tasks listed above will indicate the success or failure of the action project.
- J. Communication with faculty, administrators, and professional staff as the review progresses is critical for success of the project.
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