

General Education Steering Committee
Report of Activities: November 2003 - November 2004

The *Steering Committee to Consider General Education's Future at K-State* met for the first time approximately one year ago on November 24th, 2003 to introduce members to each other and to have an informal discussion of the Steering Committee's task. The Steering Committee membership (see Appendix 1) was comprised of faculty, staff and students, representing the eight Undergraduate Colleges, the Division of Continuing Education, Hale Library, and the Office of the Provost.

The Steering Committee conducted work in twelve general meetings, online discussions, and several meetings with others. A brief overview of the year's activities is presented in the chart below.

DATE	STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES
11-24-03	General Meeting: Introductory
12-08-03	General Meeting: Charge from Provost and Faculty Senate President
01-30-04	General Meeting
02-12-04	Article in <i>Collegian</i> (Reeck interviewed)
02-13/04	General Meeting
02-27-04	General Meeting
03-09-04	Presentation to Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate
03-12-04	General Meeting
04-02-04	General Meeting
04-26-04	Chair's E-mail Message to University Community
04-27-04	General Education Open Forum, 212 K-State Student Union
04-30-04	General Meeting
05-03-04	General Education Steering Committee website launched
05-05-04	Chair's E-mail Message to University Community
05-29-04	Interim report submitted to Provost(s) & Faculty Senate President
07-09-04	Survey Subcommittee Meeting
07-21-04	Survey Subcommittee Meeting
08-11-04	Update for Provost Nellis
08-17-04	General Meeting
08-30-04	Faculty Survey launched
09-17-04	General Meeting
10-04-04	Report to Council of Deans
10-08-04	General Meeting
10-14-04	Student Survey launched
11-09-04	Student Focus Group conducted
11-12-04	General Meeting

At the second general meeting, Provost Coffman and Faculty Senate President Zabel charged the Steering Committee to develop and implement procedures for a campus-wide solicitation of ideas and proposals, and to promote and support a creative discussion that would involve the university community. Provost Coffman also reviewed imperatives for General Education at K-State: relevance of student learning outcomes, application of the General Education program across all majors, fiscal feasibility, and political viability of the program. In

ensuing meetings the Steering Committee developed several initiatives to gather information from K-State faculty and students.

An Open Forum was held on April 27, 2004. Approximately forty people attended, in addition to panelists and members of the Steering Committee. The Chair of the General Education Steering Committee opened the forum by emphasizing that the Steering Committee hoped to obtain insights from the campus community. He then introduced five panelists, who had been invited to share some ideas as a means of initiating the open discussion.

This forum discussion led the Steering Committee to survey K-State faculty and unclassified professionals on their views of general education. A survey subcommittee (Biggs, Clegg, Marsh, Reeck, Rehmeier, and Stevens) met during the summer of 2004 to design the electronic survey that was reviewed by the Steering Committee and launched on August 30 to approximately 1,800 unclassified employees. A threaded discussion board was established and announced when the survey was launched, but no one has entered comments.

Student perspectives also were solicited through an electronic survey, launched on October 14 to a stratified random sample of 4,000 K-State undergraduates. A small follow-up focus group was conducted on November 9.

Information about the work of the Steering Committee as well as initial data results gathered through the surveys was disseminated through presentations to Academic Affairs of Faculty Senate, the Student Senate, and the Council of Deans. The General Education Steering Committee website (www.ksu.edu/catl/GenEd) was established in May 2004 to post information about the committee, the results from both surveys, and a summary of the focus group.

In addition to its charge, the Steering Committee reviewed and discussed proposals offered independently by two faculty members and by informal groups from two colleges. While the Steering Committee makes no comment regarding these proposals, they are being forwarded to Provost Nellis with the recommendation to make them available to the next committee or task force.