General Education Review Committee Update

1. Committee Members Present: Mary Donegan-Ritter, Angie Cox, and Heather Asmus

2. Why? Reasons for Revision
   a. Academic Master Plan
   b. HLC Concerns
   c. Time to make a change

3. Process: Process approved by faculty senate. We’re at the step of developing learning outcomes; structure comes next
   a. The learning areas and outcome statements are not a structure. Structure is to be considered in the spring semester, after establishment of agreed upon learning areas and outcomes.
      i. What do we want students to KNOW
      ii. Listening sessions and survey. Not clear results.
      iii. Faculty senate approve outcomes
      iv. Then structure
   v. Open and transparent
   vi. Flexibility - lead to electives minors, and certificate

   a. Committee is reviewing feedback and survey results.
   b. Committee members are visiting each college senate, faculty senate, and other groups to hear feedback, thoughts, ideas and update on our progress.

5. Network Questions / Comments:
   a. Supportive of making the GE shorter. Currently, it is too long for students who want to pursue double majors, minors, and certificates. Would like to see more flexibility for students.
   b. Why do we need 8 outcomes? 3 or 4 seem sufficient. Remember that outcomes have to be assessed, and the more we have the more work it will take to assess them. Take the top three from survey results.
   c. Support for having a GE that applies to all majors (that is one way UNI stands out from other Universities). Look to our GE to make UNI stand out.

Environmental Opportunities at UNI

A. BA Environmental Resource MGMT Dennis Dahms
   a. Entirely interdisciplinary program rather than departmental program.
   b. We aren’t ISU/UI - not as much funding for scientists - cutting edge. We are for management; park management, Park rangers, Philanthropy coordinators;
c. Small core plus 4 specific tracks. Can select 1 track. Ecosystems (Saunders), Geosystems (Dahms), resource admin(Scholl), environmental compliance(Morgan). If really not sure which area, start with Dahms.

B. **Kamyar Ensheyen** - Environmental Resource Centers
   
a. Know to do; very hands on projects. Bring applications to the theoretical major.
   b. Center very team centered. Students with faculty and community members.
   c. Hire many students and graduates.
   d. Learn about problems and challenges and work through solutions
   e. Corey - set up food bank garden. And educational program for harvesting and cooking. Preparing meals
   f. Students partnered with 2 farms; researched waterloo neighborhoods where no grocery stores, so set up food stands. In 2 neighborhoods, now 6.
   g. Americore program - to improve access to good food. They are now hiring 2 bachelor graduates: building food garden at Peoples to distribute in clinic. Health
   h. Energy plans for community to reduce emissions. (Public Admin student and Geography majors).
   i. Reduce lawn pesticides and education; in communities

C. **Green Iowa AmeriCorps Program (Sustainable Schools; Land and Water; Energy & Community)** - **Carmen Finken**
   
a. Domestic version of the Peace Corps. 3 months to 11 months service terms.
   b. Reflect needs of the state
   c. Services all over state (Energy audits; in schools for curriculum and waste management; Flood mitigation /rain barrels, etc.
   d. Hire and take volunteers; paid internships
   e. Paid - Living Stipend, Education Award (apply to student loans or grad school, or if take break in middle of ugrd then they can apply to next educational /books), Federal Loan Deferment; Interest Accrual Repayment; Child care assistance.
   f. PD Opportunities: Conferences, Ethical dimensions of Land Management, Midwest food recovery summit. LEED Accredited. Nonprofit certificate

D. **Iowa Waste Reduction Center: Dan Nickey**
   
a. Interactions with UNI Students.
   b. 1987 Groundwater Protection Act - "Assist Iowa's small businesses in complying with environmental regulations and implement practical pollution prevention practices"
   c. Services are free and confidential
d. All counties. Have conducted 6000+ on-site reviews.

e. Iowa Green Brewery Certification. Waste management reduce: compliance, environmental mgmt, energy, water quality solid waste.

f. Since enforcement is being reduced (DNR, EPA) then businesses are not as motivated to pursue this.

g. USDA food waste prevention grants. Specifically K-12 Schools. Assess what kids are throwing away in low income communities to see what could have been recycled, etc. Outcome to reduce food waste. One hurdle was the USDA regulations on what schools need to serve and kids don't eat.


i. Student Internship opportunities: Office, IT, Web Dev, Marketing, Graphic Design, Environmental, Brewery project intern, food waste intern, research,

j. Often learn word of mouth so may not be posted on job board.

E. Eric O'Brien - UNI Sustainability Office

a. UNI Panther Plot - produce donated to dining center and food bank, etc. Plus Rudy's taco's (tomatoes, onions, peppers). Student employees (project or volunteer coordinators) as well as volunteers.

b. Student Green Fund: New. Student Fee, and then students help determine where money goes. Students can apply to use funds). Empowers students to make impacts on our campus.

c. Panther Pick up; bike project; Earth Day.

d. ROETC(?) - reduce reuse (environmental health and community outreach)

e. Sustainability Certificate - Intro to Sustainability plus 12 more hours. Many LAC options.

f. See advisors from the CSBS.uni.edu/certificate website. Gowri Betrabet Gulwadi is the coordinator.