

GECC Meeting Minutes 09/24/09

Present: Carol Guerrero-Murphy, Stephanie Gonzalez, Ed Lyell, Margaret Doell, Marty Jones

The meeting was called to order shortly after 4 p.m. The agenda included NSSE reports and reviewing of the Goal 4 reports that Carol had received by this time.

Minutes provided by Margaret were approved.

Technological difficulties precluded the second item on the agenda, so that will be addressed in the next meeting (October 1, 4 p.m., Business 227).

We looked at the list of institutions that comprise our comparisons group. We were a bit surprised at some of the institutions on the Rocky Mountain Public list (e.g., CSU, Montana State), and by the relatively small number of institutions on the list of our Carnegie Peers (6).

Margaret reported on the respondent characteristics from the NSSE document. Our students were similar in most characteristics to our peers except in the area of ethnicity. We are significantly higher in the percentage of respondents of Hispanic/Latino students and consequently lower in the percentage of White (non-Hispanic) students. We also had a larger percentage of female respondents, at both the first-year and senior level although the number of female respondents decreased at a greater rate compared to other schools at the senior level. Some discussion of graduation rates ensued.

Marty reported on the benchmark comparisons section of the NSSE document. In general, we compare favorably to the Rocky Mt Public subset, our Carnegie Peers, and the overall NSSE 2008 group, but are not in the top 50% of the NSSE 2008 institutions. We decided that the benchmarks of NSSE that are most pertinent to goal 4 of general education are ACL (active and collaborative learning), SFI (student-faculty interaction), and EEE (enriching educational experiences). Of these three, we are weakest in EEE, which gives significant room for improvement. Of additional interest (not so much for GECC, but for the campus) is that the last benchmark, SCE (supportive campus environment), was the only one in which we had a decrease from first-year to senior level respondents. Although each comparison group evinced a decline, ASC's decline was larger than the others'.

Is our decline a consequence of faculty interactions or other campus component (question added 10/1/09)

At this point we ran out of time. At the next meeting, we'll cover the rest of the NSSE document. In addition, we'll have a discussion of Roger Eriksen's alternative gen ed course proposal (Margaret will send us all copies of the proposal). Carol will either send us electronic copies of the goal 4 reports she has received or put them up on a GECC shared drive.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 1 at 4 p.m. in Business 227.

Submitted by Marty Jones, 9/25/09