**Fall 2012**

Posted on January 4, 2013

Fall 2012 was a jam-packed semester for General Education at Yavapai College. Laughs! Tears! Car chases! No, not really, but we did get a lot of work done.

In anticipation of the Higher Learning Commission’s coming accreditation visit, a general review and overhaul of the college’s General Education program was undertaken, a project in which the entire faculty participated. This process actually began in the spring of 2012, when surveys were sent to all full- and part-time faculty, asking them to identify which general education topics and skills they considered most relevant to their own courses. With this information, the General Education Committee was able to come up with general categories that we all felt should be included in the college’s Gen Ed program.

In the fall, revision began in earnest. At Employee Day in August, the entire faculty broke up into working groups to either review existing learning outcomes (for topics already included in Gen Ed) or to develop new outcomes for the categories that were being added. This process continued throughout the semester, as each of the ten working groups met on a Friday afternoon to finish this first step. I’m very pleased to report that all ten groups succeeded in their individual efforts to develop brand-spanking new outcomes for the newly christened Yavapai College GECCO (General Education Core Curriculum Outcomes.)

While the focus was on the GECCO, a clarification of the college’s own General Education values, goals and outcomes, this work necessarily affected the AGEC outcomes as well. AGEC categories that overlapped with new GECCO categories were also revised as they were combined with the GECCO. Of the four AGEC categories that were not a part of the GECCO, two (Social Science and Behavioral Science) were reviewed and revised in AY 2011/12 and therefore did not need any further scrutiny. Faculty teaching Arts and Humanities courses discussed and recommended minor changes to the Arts and Humanities learning outcomes, which were subsequently approved by the General Education and Curriculum committees. The fourth category, Historical Perspective, is the only Gen Ed category in need of routine review, a process that will take place in AY 2013/14.

The culmination of all this effort was the approval of a revised “Yavapai College General Education Values and Outcomes” document by the Curriculum Committee in their final meeting of 2012. This document will be part of the 2013/14 catalog and becomes the official expression of Yavapai College’s commitment to and plan for General Education.

The plan for spring 2013 is to continue the process of developing an assessment plan for our new learning outcomes.