

## **Action Project 4 Charter**

### **General Education Redesign: Essential Learning in a Changing World**

**Opportunity for the team:** The team will guide a 1- to 2-year process for redesigning the general education core curriculum.

**Data that led to the selection of this project:** General education has been on the strategic planning agenda for several years. The Conversation Day in Nov 2007 highlighted the urgency of revisiting a curriculum that has not seen significant reform or redesign in over 30 years. Some investigation in the Spring of 2008 also revealed a high number of students taking general education courses at community colleges and local universities.

#### **Project Scope:**

1. Arrive at general education overarching understandings through full faculty conversations of ethos and mission
2. Develop specific, measurable outcomes based on overarching understandings
3. Identify assessment tools for outcomes
4. Identify and train key faculty to design coursework to meet outcomes
5. Rename core curriculum program
6. Implement new program in Fall 2010

#### **After the steering team is chartered it will:**

- Lead faculty conversations to develop general education overarching understandings aligned with institutional mission
- Keep academic officers and department chairs informed of progress
- Maintain an open forum on general education issues via the Angel CMS
- Shape faculty discussions into meaningful outcomes statements for discussion and approval by full faculty
- Lead ad hoc teams in developing assessment tools and goals for each outcome
- Teach faculty elements of curriculum/course design to fulfill outcomes and assessments
- Work with the Registrar on transferability issues and articulation of courses

- Conduct a summer faculty seminar to design and align courses for new program, assisting faculty in finding the appropriate vertical alignment with the mission and horizontal alignment across disciplines
- Seek appropriate approvals from campus committees and boards for new program
- Educate Admissions staff and other key members of the EU community on redesigned program
- Implement the new program by Fall of 2010

**Customer Requirements:** The customer is the Evangel University community including students, faculty, staff, parents, pastors and other external stakeholders. An alignment of the general education program with university ethos and outcomes goals would better position the university to compete in this area. Student enrollment and retention as well as alumni satisfaction and subsequent participation could be enhanced by improved alignment of the general education core with university mission.

**Team Selection Guidelines:** Ad hoc teams, led by Diane Awbrey, will form around specific phases of the project and may include department chairs, general education faculty, representatives from each academic department, the directors of online education, distance education, proficiency exams, and/or information technology, and the Registrar. Other entities on campus (Student Development, LifeWorks, Admissions, etc.) may be requested to send team members to meetings or join committees as necessary.

**Reporting Structure between the team and the Campus Planning Council sub-committee:** The Action Project Manager will bear responsibility to keep the team on task and on time. The team will provide monthly progress updates to the AQIP Steering Team Liaison, who will in turn report to the EU Strategic Planning Team and subsequently the Campus Planning Council. EU community members will be updated through the Angel Faculty Forum and departmental and campus-wide meetings.

**Project Constraints:** The General Education Redesign Project will focus on the Liberal Arts core courses at the university. It will seek to align this program with the university mission and the needs of the professional studies programs as expressed by their leaders. The comprehensive nature of the general education curriculum requires that this Project team work cooperatively with

many entities across the campus to assure maximum clarity of purpose and participation among all parties.

**Authority to consult experts:** The team may consult with knowledgeable individuals within the University and at other institutions as needed. They may engage consultants with the understanding that any consultant that would require a fee will need prior approval of the Campus Planning Council.

**Authority to change processes:** The team will make recommendations to the designated AQIP contact and/or appropriate Campus Planning Council sub-committee. At appropriate intervals, the findings and recommendations will be referred to the Campus Planning Council for implementation approval.

**Outcomes of the project:** The team shall introduce a newly named general education program that includes:

1. Overarching understandings related to university mission and ethos
2. Clearly stated objectives based on overarching understandings
3. An assessment plan for assessing general education objectives
4. A program of courses with course outcomes and assessments that align with program objectives
5. Faculty trained and ready to teach courses in the new program
6. Educated admissions officers and advisers who can articulate to prospective students the purposes and outcomes of the new program

**Timeline for completion of the project:**

Phase 1: Overarching understandings	Fall 2008
Phase 2: Outcomes and assessments	Spring 2009
Phase 3: Course development	Spring/Summer 2009
Phase 4: Registration and other logistics	Fall 2009
Phase 5: Campus approvals	Fall 2009/Spring 2010
Phase 6: Launch & implementation	Spring 2010

**Recognition of efforts and team accomplishments:** Incremental milestones will be publicly recognized within the Evangel community through e-mails, web postings, and community gatherings. Upon completion of the project, the team members and participating faculty will feel satisfaction in having addressed an

important issue impacting the vision and mission of Evangel University. Team members will receive recognition at the campus-wide meetings commensurate with the quality of the report.