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Summer Work Check-in Progress Update: General Education Task Force

Plymouth State University

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Summer Work Check-in Progress Update

Below, please share bullets on progress towards goals to date. At the July 17 meeting, we will have a broader discussion on progress, what's worked well, and what support might be needed.

Please return this document by email to Corey Hoyt by 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 13th. The full list of summer work progress will then be consolidated and shared in advance of the meeting.

Gen Ed Outcomes Task Force Progress:

- Refine the definitions of Student Outcomes
 - We have a very good draft for 4 outcomes which we are calling Habits of Mind. The 4 habits of mind are: Purposeful Communication, Problem Solving, Integrative Perspective, and Self-Regulated Learning. Our idea is that each of the habits of mind can be worked on in every general education class.
- Develop benchmarks for those outcomes
 - We have very good drafts of benchmarks for each of the 4 outcomes. We are using a mountain metaphor for the benchmarks where we will be assessing students' progress using "signposts." We have avoided a "deficit model" for the signposts but instead simply want to assess where students are. We would expect most first year students to be at "basecamp." In most of their other general education courses, students will be "climbing." And in the capstone, most students should reach the "summit."
- Complete a report for the Faculty meeting in October
 - We are planning a University Days session to get feedback on our work. We will have a preliminary draft of the report ready before that session to explain what we have done so far.

Reflective Questions

- What connections/intersections do you see between the work your team is doing and that of other teams?

The FYS Fellows will be working with the habits of mind. Eventually, we'd like to see a set of common habits of mind that every department (academic and non-academic) will use in all of their interactions with students. Because of that, we think our work also connects with the student experience group. The habits of mind that we came up with may or may not be those used by the entire University.

- What do you see as the most productive outcome (realized or potential) from the work being done this summer?

Given that we have gone 15+ years with this gen ed program and have had no common outcomes for the program, the simple fact that we have addressed this issue (building on

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the work of the spring retreat of a gen ed working group) is a huge accomplishment. We are also feeling pretty good about the benchmarks (and the metaphor) that we've developed for the habits of mind (although we still have some work that we'll accomplish in July).

- What, if anything, is getting in the way of you getting your work done?

We have been very productive but have had some difficulty getting everyone together in the month of July. We are making it work with some virtual attendance at meetings.

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