Summary of the GER Assessment Task Force’s work to date

- As per Faculty Senate charge, we formed a task force to research and report on national level best practices in assessment of GER student learning outcomes (committee formed by mid-Oct. 2012).
- We have met 3 times in October. Our first task was to design a Research Project Request for Hanover Research. Hanover does academic and institutional on a contract basis for UAA. The Task Force will be requesting that Hanover compile research information on GER outcomes assessment practices and designs at selected universities across the nation.
- In creating the list of institutions for Hanover to research, the Task Force examined several lists of UAA Peer Institutions (there is an older list, and a new one that has been suggested by Hanover via another research project). Each Task Force member individually examined several institutions from the Peer lists, as well as several other institutions not on the list, to determine whether they were suitable for further investigation.
- We have come up with a list of 13 institutions that we will request Hanover to research more fully and give us a report (hopefully, before the Semester Break). This list is not definitive, we will continue to examine other institutions, if we find they have worthwhile models of General Education outcomes assessment.
- At this stage, the Task Force is gathering information on institutional approaches and practices to assessment of GER student learning outcomes. Our initial investigations have already yielded engaging discussions on potentials and challenges with the various approaches.
- Our future plans this semester are to continue our broad-based exploration of GER assessment models. Next semester we will begin to mine down more deeply into the information that Hanover provides us, as well as the information that we continue to gather. By the end of the Spring Semester we hope to have a working draft of a report on best practices and our recommendations on what might work best for UAA. This draft would be finalized over the summer, ready to deliver to Faculty Senate, Provost and UAA by the beginning of Fall 2013.
- We have generally discussed the need to keep the faculty and UAA community aware and involved with our work. Although we have not yet discussed the specifics, we will be sure to include opportunities next semester for faculty and UAA involvement in this process.