Notes for Faculty Forum on General Education Requirements on East Campus 10/26

***What is General Education?***

* Core of classes to produce a well-rounded individual
* Exposure to broader areas
* Functional literacy beyond specialty area
* Not specifically geared toward career or profession
* Opportunity to think more deeply and critically
* Learn to think critically in areas other than just in a particular major
* Core body of skills and thinking that will enhance future courses no matter what the subject matter happens to be
* Broadens student experiences

***Key points:***

* We are not one dimensional creatures
* We need the experience of common abilities/skills
* Need to be engaged
* Set of insights of the world, culture and self
* Well educated – can navigate society with confidence
* Breadth of experience
  + Can navigate culture
  + Make informed decisions
  + Reason clearly and make objective decisions
  + Effective at critical thinking
  + Can appreciate differences and other cultures

***What is the purpose of the Undergraduate Degree?***

* Provides more options
* Meets the needs of society which change over time
* Necessary to get a job
* Diversify cognitive abilities
* Broaden perspectives of citizenry
* So fewer will be subject to blindly follow those influences that are less than worthy
* Creates life-long learners

***General Feeling of group:***

* Legislature has a vocational-technical mentality
* Looking at things as an economic building block
* We might be benefit from looking at things in a “negative” way – “without general education, what would education look like…?”
* This legislation will have huge impact on SAC’s and vice versa – is it even realistic?
* Faculty Union unrest
* Legislature is looking at a reduction in Gen Ed to free-up hours to specialize in a job.
* Transferability of courses to specific employment
* How will Gordon rule play out?
* Feeling of too much to accomplish in short time, not really part of the decision-making