

### **General Education Review Committee meeting of March 13th, 2014**

At this meeting, members of the General Education Reform Committee, that was formed in 2002 to examine EMU's General Education Program, share their insights into the program. Issues discussed included:

- The necessity of review in an essentially dynamic program.
- General Education as an independent and intentional program designed with specific purposes in mind.
- The current effects of the unanticipated focus on student credit hours in terms of part-time instructors teaching General Education classes and departments not only offering more and more courses, but creating more and more prefixes.
- Outcomes for the program were not only ahead of their time, but generated with an emphasis on the nature of general education and faculty input from across campus.
- The vision of students taking ownership of their General Education choices.
- The lack of clarity on what would be taught in a technology requirement. The lack of follow through on having a test that all students would take on entering EMU to evaluate their knowledge of technology and if deficiencies existed in coming up with ways of meeting these.
- The success of the Writing Intensive requirement, with most departments developing such a course and data to support student outcomes in this area.
- Learning Beyond the Classroom's success in compelling students to challenge themselves intellectually in ways they might not otherwise have, identifying with the intellectual community of the University, helping students to become professionalized, and studying abroad.
- Discussion of the Reform Committee in terms of representation from many constituencies across campus, its broad view and intellectual considerations in terms of what a liberal arts education should be, and the detachment of members from their own self-interest in favor of consideration of the big picture.