

General Education Committee Minutes

March 15, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

Members Present: Elif Akcali, Timothy Brophy, Alex Cohen, Eva Czarnecka, David Julian, John Krigbaum, Andrew Ogram, Lynn O'Sickey, Morgan Pigg, Brenda Smith, and Robert Thomson

Co-Chairs: Bernard Mair

Executive Secretary: Ann Greene

1. Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members:

Dr. Mair welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

2. Minutes from the Feb. 22nd and March 1st meeting were approved with corrections:

- March 1st minutes Brenda Smith was absent

3. The Good Life-Course Waivers:

Innovation Academy:

Dr. Mair discussed a waiver for The Good Life course which was granted to the Innovation Academy students who started in Spring 2013 due to the fact that there was no online or Summer version of the course. The expectation was that the IA Creativity would have fulfilled the humanities requirement, but that was denied by the General Education committee. Therefore, these students are still required to fulfill the General Education requirement, but are not required to take the Good Life course. The question now is should we continue granting the waiver or should all the other cohorts be required to take the Good Life course as it is required for all freshmen? The Good Life course will be offered all three semesters, Fall, Spring and Summer. The committee discussed the purposes of The Good Life Course and concluded that the IA program provided the same benefits without this course so approved the extension of the waiver for all future Innovation Academy students. However, majors still have the option of requiring that course in their curricula.

Students who transfer 60 credits to UF but without an AA

AA transfers are not required to take The Good Life course due to articulation that exempts them from satisfying any additional General Education requirements for UF. Lynn O'Sickey stated that the state regulations states if a student has an AA degree from a public institution in Florida that student has met their General Education requirement. If the student transfers without their AA degree then they may not have completed UF's General Education requirement. Many students transfer to UF with 60-70 credit hours who have already taken courses that can be substituted for General Education, but now students are required to take The Good Life course which cannot be substituted because it can only be taken at UF. The students with 60 or more credits who transfer often have difficulties completing their undergraduate degree requirements on time. As a result, some colleges and individuals students have requested a waiver for these students. In particular, CALS has made requests for veterans and for students from a particular college with which they have an MOU. Veteran students are under pressure to complete by a specific time. So the

question is why should some portions of the General Education requirements be waived for students transferring without an AA degree? The Good Life steering committee approved that the course be waived for these transfer students.

The committee approved that a waiver process be set up to grant waivers for particular programs, rather than for individual student waivers. Also it was suggested to consider a more uniform policy for Veteran students under the G.I. Bill who only have 24 months to complete their degree.

4. Revised SLOs and Rubrics

The committee discussed the revised student learning outcomes and rubrics, and suggested more changes.

5. Modified SLOs and Definitions of Categories

The committee discussed the modified student learning outcomes and definitions of categories, and suggested more changes.

6. General Education Data Submission Grid

Dr. Brophy presented a new grid for the assessment data for the General Education Student Learning Outcomes. The grid required the completion of three criteria for each SLO in addition to the “Overall” rating. The committee suggested deleting the “overall” rating on the grid in order to reduce the amount of work required for entering the data and out of a consideration of the meaning and relation of the overall rating to the criteria..

The meeting adjourned at 3:00p.m.