

**General Education Committee Meeting**

April 4, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Bernard Mair, Creed Greer, Elif Akcali, Timothy Brophy, Eva Czarnecka, Shannon Cochrane, Suzanne Colvin, Sid Dobrin, David Julian, Tanya Koropeckyj-Cox, Andy Ogram, Lynn O'Sickey, John Palmer, Alison Reynolds, Brenda Smith, Bethany Taylor and Joshua Williams

**Absent:** Christopher Hass, John Krigbaum and Vicki Sarajedini,

**Executive Secretary:** Ann Greene

**1. Minutes from February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved with the following corrections:**

- Item #1 Courses for Review- fourth bullet -insert comma in the last sentence between "assignment" and "which"
- Item # 2 Recertification of ECO 2013-second bullet, last sentence-capitalized the "c" in the word "committee"

**Minutes from March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with the following corrections:**

- Editorial corrections -capitalizing "General Education" and "Writing Requirements"
- Replace-" syllabus did not include General Education language" with "syllabus need to conform to the General Education requirements"
- Item #2 Courses for Review of HSC 4232C-second sentence-insert "and" between S, D
- Item #3 Recertification of Courses of MUL 2010-third bullet,-replace "courses" with "sections"
- Item #3 Recertification of Courses of MUL 2010-fourth bullet,-replace "worth" with "valued at"

**2. Dr. Mair updated the committee on the discussions that he had with the departments regarding the following courses:**

**FOS 2001 *Man's Food***; the department has agreed to terminate the General Education designation effective Fall 2015.

**ECO 2013 *Principles of Macroeconomics***; The department is proposing to include and grade free response questions on the exams to assess critical thinking and communication. The General Education Committee had recommended that a paper be included but the department is unable to provide resources to grade so many essays. They are proposing to use undergraduate TA's (without rubrics) to grade the free response questions. The department will submit a proposal for addressing the concerns of the General Education Committee before submitting a revised syllabus for review.

The committee discussed the use of undergraduate TA's for this purpose and the university's policy on the matter.

### 3. Courses for Review

Course#	Title	Current GE & WR	Request	Status
ARH 2000	Art Appreciation: American Diversity Global Arts	NONE	D, H	Approved
ENL 2930	From Page to Screen: Humanities Visual, Rhetoric and Visual Culture	NONE	H-1 time Approval	Recycled

**ARH 2000** *Art Appreciation: American Diversity Global Arts*, Approved (D) and (H) effective Summer 2014.

**ENL 2930** *From Page to Screen: Humanities Visual, Rhetoric and Visual*, Recycle.

The syllabus needs to include a verbatim statement of the general education objectives for the Humanities area, and the General Education Student Learning Outcomes. The last sentence under "Quizzes" is incomplete.

### 4. Recertification of Courses

**MUL 2010** *Introduction Music Literature*, Dr. Mair met with the course instructor and the Associate Dean. They presented a revised syllabus in which both the face-to-face and online sections were the same and addressed some of the comments. Mair approved the revised syllabus on a temporary basis until a new one is submitted in the Fall for recertification. They also agreed to reduce the Writing Requirement words from 6000 to 2000 for all the sections effective Fall.

**SYG 2000** *Principles of Sociology*, Dr. Mair met with members of the department; and they agreed that the course did not address the Writing Requirement; therefore they wanted it remove effective Fall 2014. They will submit a new syllabus in the Fall for the Social Science designation.

### 5. Update on the Grand Challenges Proposals

Dr. Mair stated that he received several proposals eight in the Social Sciences including three on health, one on literacy, one called Understanding Data, one on social disparities in Florida, and one called Competitive Edge; and four in the Natural Sciences: Climate Change, A Human Mission to Mars, Feeding the World and the Human Machine. On Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> Dr. Mair will meet with President Machen to get his opinion of the proposals, and then they will be presented to the General Education Committee for suggestions and ideas on how to move forward.

### 6. Remove references to Math Requirement

Lynn O'Sickey presented a proposal to remove references to the "Math Requirement" on the General Education website and the 2014-2015 undergraduate catalog. The proposal was approved by the committee.

### 7. Example Syllabus

Shannon Cochran presented the example syllabus that she created. The committee offered many suggestions and David Julian offered to assist her with the revisions.

### 8. Preliminary Report from the General Education Assessment Sub-Committee

David Julian gave an overview of two reports that the Sub-Committee has been working on to present to the General Education Committee. The first report will be an analysis of the assessment data from the General Education Program Assessment of 2013, which includes the *course embedded assessments* and the data from the SERU survey which has some specific General Education questions that reflect General Education goals and objectives. The second report will be a proposal on how to prepare the assessments in the subsequent years. The committee will meet with the faculty and instructors who participated in the assessment procedure last year, after which they will create a document to explain the process. Their goal of the overview is to get feedback and questions from the General Education Committee regarding their findings.

Eva Czarnecka discussed the assessment procedure that was conducted Spring 2013. The aim was to test student achievement of all Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The assessment included a cross-section of General Education categories. It involved a *course-embedded approach*, which utilized *in-class assignments*. Assignments were pre-existing. They were tailored to evaluate individual student achievement, and selected based on the institutional General Education rubrics and their strong alignment with institutional SLOs.

The institutional definitions and SLO's were streamlined and focused on the three general areas, *Content, Critical Thinking, and Communication*. Office of Institutional Research and Planning selected courses at random from 5 colleges, 21 departments, 64 courses, and 121 sections, including a total of *4,408 students*. Subsequently, an *Assessment Submission Form* was developed, which encouraged instructors to specify SLO's categories tested by their in-class assignment, describe the merit of the assignment, and a grading range.

A five-point *Assessment Input Grid* was developed with help from the UF e-Learning Support Services. The evaluation points were Outstanding, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, Unscorable, and N/A Not Applicable. In May 2013, the instructors conducted assignments and rated students' responses according to General Education rubrics. They uploaded all of the ratings into the SAKAI course management system, and generated STATS, which was the raw data to be analyzed further.

David Julian presented a chart summary of the data. For example in HUM 2305 there was a lot of variations between sections in the percentage of students that received each ratings. In some courses the students always had the exact same score all categories, suggesting that the grade on a single question was used to assess all SLO's.

Bethany Taylor briefly discussed the data from the SERU survey of the 2013 SACS report. She asked these questions:

- Does the survey need to have 90 questions?
- Do we need a scale of six levels and what does it mean when you have such a scale.
- Should true and false questions be used in the survey

Meeting adjourned at 10:00a.m.