

General Education Committee Minutes

March 16, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm

Members Present: Fiona Barnes, Barbara Curbow, Eva Czarnecka, John Krigbaum, Mark Meisel, Andy Ogram, Lynn O'Sickey, Morgan Pigg, Brenda Smith, Bethany Taylor, Robert Thomson, Theresa Vernetson, and Greg Zuest

Guest: John Maze, Martin Gold and David Ostroff (representing Michael Weigold)

Co-Chairs: Bernard Mair and David Julian

Executive Secretary: Ann Goodson

1. Minutes from the February 3rd meeting were approved.

2. Recertification of Courses:

Meisel initiated a discussion on the process for reviewing the courses as he felt that all the groups needed to follow the same process.

O'Sickey described the process in Group #3 which consists of 4 members and have to review 3 courses. Each course is reviewed by two members so that two members evaluate each class, and share their findings when the group meets as a whole to discuss the courses.

Pigg described the proves in Group #4 which consists of 4 members and are doing a similar approach to Group #3. Czarnecka who is a member stated they have one course that is difficult so they may have to bring it before the entire committee to help. The committee agreed that a more unified, standardized process needed to be developed and Mair agreed to use the information obtained to achieve that goal.

3. New Regulations:

Mair discussed new legislation that will dramatically affect General Education. This would change the number of Gen Ed credits from 36 to 30 and require 12-15 hours of common Gen Ed courses that are taught by and accepted by every institution in the state, and created by a committee of faculty. The other bill is the Preeminence bill that is being promoted by President Machen which in addition to tuition flexibility will give us the flexibility of requiring 9-12 hours of Gen Ed unique to this campus.

4. Report from the Assessment Subcommittee:

Julian presented the report from the Assessment subcommittee that has been addressing how to assess General Education outcomes because of the SACS Accreditation that is coming 2014. He stated that will have to be preliminary data on the assessments of the student learning outcomes in our Gen Ed courses. The committee has developed learning outcomes and rubrics that can be used in all Gen Ed categories and thought of a variety of ways to try to assess the outcomes. Eventually they settled on a process similar to that used for the writing requirement.

The process would require instructors of Gen Ed courses to fill in one of four boxes for each student on Grade-a-Gator 3 that will assess each of the three learning outcomes categories (critical thinking, content knowledge and communication). The categories will be ranked on a rubric using a scale 1-4, 1 being inadequate and 4 being exemplary and then in between. This will not affect whether the student passes or fails or gets Gen Ed credit for the course. This is purely for assessing the course and how well the courses at the university are meeting the stated outcomes of the General Education program.

The committee came up with definitions for each of the SLO's categories. If these SLO's are approved they will go to the UCC as an information item, then to the Senate as an information item. Then the plan will be to get the column added to Grade-a-Gator and in the Fall of 2012 will do a trial with a select number of courses where faculty will work with this and make sure that all the bugs have been work out and refined if necessary. In Spring of 2013 it will be opened up for optional participation and in Fall of 2013 it will be mandatory.

The Content SLO - Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the discipline. (Approved unanimously).

The Communication SLO - Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline. (10 approved and 3 abstentions).

The Critical Thinking SLO - Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. (The committee could not reach a decision before the meeting ended).

5. **Course Review:**

ARC 1000 *Architecture & Humanity*: Approved H, effective Summer 2012.

GLY 2038 *Sustainability and the Changing Earth*: Approved P, effective Summer 2012.

MUH 3530, *Popular and Traditional Music of Africa*, The course number change triggered an automatic review of its General Education designations of Humanities and International (H, N). The Gen Ed committee revoked (H,N) designations effective Fall 2012 for the following reasons: the syllabus needs to address the general education purpose and the student learning outcomes of the course. It should state clearly how they are related to the content and critical thinking components of Gen Ed. Also the course syllabus needs to address how it satisfies the humanities discipline.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm