

General Education Committee Minutes

September 2, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm

Members Present: Barbara Curbow, Eva Czarnecka, Sidney Dobrin, David Julian, John Krigbaum, Mark Meisel, Lynn O'Sickey, Morgan Pigg, Brenda Smith, Bethany Taylor, Theresa Vernetson, Gregory Zuest

Co-Chairs: Bernard Mair and Robert Thomson

Guests: Cheryl Gater and Kimberly Martin

Executive Secretary: Ann Goodson

1. Dr. Mair opened the meeting.
2. **Minutes** from the May 13th meeting were approved.
3. **Responsibilities to New Members:**
Dr. Mair gave an overview to the new members of what the committee does, their roles for serving on the committee, the application process and how each request is voted on, and that the majority vote carries the motion. The committee was informed that all applications are now done through the approval system.
4. **Voting of Co-Chair:**
David Julian was elected as the new Senate Co-Chair for the committee.
5. **Course review:**
PLS 3004C *Principles of Plant Science*, Approved B effective Fall 2011.
6. **Initiative for the year:**
Recertification of Courses:
A course with the Gen Ed designation that has been approved for more than 3 years needs to be reviewed. The college will be informed of the courses that are up for review and need to submit an application as if it were a new request. The committee will look at the course as if it is a new request and approve or deny the request.

Common Humanities Course-(The Good Life):

Deliberations were started on the Common Humanities course. The course has been approved by the UCC, given a permanent course number, and now being offered as a regular UF course. The curriculum does not yet require that it be taken by any segment of the UF population much less all UF students. Last spring two concerns were discussed, first should there be a humanities course that is required for all UF students to take except transfer students. Secondly if there should be such a course is this particular course the one to fill that requirement? The committee felt that they needed to get some input from students, instructors, and teaching assistants from the course in order to evaluate the course.

Dr. Thomson provided some preliminary comments on the course in order to start the process. Dr. Mair is hoping to start planning a process of setting up evaluations and carrying it out this semester so that a decision can be made in the spring.

Assessment of Gen Ed program:

Dr. Mair introduced Cheryl Gater to the committee as the Director of SACS Accreditation and stated that the SACS report for UF is due September 2013 that 3 years of data are needed. There needs to be a method of assessing the program and a process for using the data to improve the General Education curriculum.

The committee has done the first part by setting up the SLO's. The first question is how to assess the program effective in meeting the SLO's? This can be done by either in the courses or by some other instrument. The next question is how are the results being used in to improve the experience of the students in the Gen Ed curriculum?

Dr. Mair proposed to reactivate the sub-committee for Assessment. Dr. Theresa Vernetson agreed to chair the new sub-committee and Kimberly Martin will be working with the committee and a request was made for volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm