

General Education Committee Meeting

November 13, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 8:30am

Present: Elif Akcali, Emily Butler, Elayne Colon, Eva Czarnecka-Verner, Creed Greer, Christopher Hass, Clay Hurdle, Tanya Koropecykj-Cox, John Krigbaum, Lynn O'Sickey, John Palmer, Mario Poceski, Heidi Radunovich, Alison Reynolds, Jennifer Rea, Vicki Sarajedini, Brenda Smith

Absent: Russ Bowers, Timothy Brophy, Shannon Cochrane, David Julian

1. Approval of Draft Minutes from October 2nd Meeting

Minutes reviewed and approved with slight grammatical revision to item #4

2. Update from Assessment Subcommittee

Committee began the process of recertification in compliance with SACs accreditation requirements for General Education and to recertify courses for General Education compliance locally. The original plan was to use the UF Core courses for this purpose, but the UF Core has been postponed until 2017. The decision was made to review a subset of State Core courses. The courses selected met criteria such as a breadth of student majors represented in the courses, large number of students, numerous sections with different instructors, online offerings, etc.

The subcommittee seeks approval of full General Education committee for their choice of courses (ARH2000, AST1002, SYG2000, and ANT2000) before proceeding with the gathering of assessment data (hopefully from Canvas) and contacting the programs.

A proposal was made to include a General Education International course in the recertification analysis. Since the subcommittee chose State Core courses for the analysis, there is only one eligible candidate: MUL2010. The International designation for this course will be reviewed again in February, so there is uncertainty if it would be appropriate to include it in the selected courses.

Subcommittee seeks approval for using these courses. Committee moved to approve, with stipulation that an International course be included when possible. Subcommittee responded that they then would remove one of the Social and Behavioral courses to replace with an International course, since four courses was preferred for the analysis. Further discussion occurred about why two Social and Behavioral Science courses were selected (one of the courses had more Humanities students, while the other had more Social and Physical/Biological students). Proposal with incorporation of International course if possible was approved.

3. Revision of text on GE website Writing Requirement Page

After discussion about the appropriate use of plural possessive for “student” and wording about ability to identify authors within a group assignment, the following language was approved for the webpage:

The writing must be evaluated on the content, organization and coherence, effectiveness, style, grammar and punctuation. Assignments must be returned to students with a grade and comments that address the students’ writing skills. Consequently, feedback on all assignments should be provided by the last day of class, or, if provided electronically, by the end of finals.

Evaluation of writing is based on individual work. Class notes, quizzes, and in – class writing assignments or essay examinations may not be counted. Team-written documents may not be counted for credit unless clear sections by an individual are identified by author for grading, such that an individual student’s writing may be evaluated and graded. Drafts cannot be counted separately from final drafts as part of the total number of words completed during the course.

4. Course Structure Policy

O’Sickey presented revision of following statement, requesting the last sentence be stricken:

The General Education Program provides students with instruction that enables them to communicate, make informed decisions, and participate fully as informed citizens in local, national and global matters. General Education courses in the biological or physical sciences, humanities, mathematics, and social and behavioral sciences should present a breadth of knowledge and should not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. Any prerequisites for courses that meet a General Education requirement must themselves be courses approved to meet a General Education requirement.

Motion passed.

5. CALS Agreement with Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College

Committee has a number of questions about the scope of the agreement. Does it include the establishment of actual course equivalencies, or articulation of AA requirements in general (waiving International/Diversity requirement and Good Life)? How will State Core equivalent courses be established? Does coursework from Abraham Baldwin sufficiently address International and Diversity General Education criteria? The agreement appears to refer to UF's former International/Diversity requirement, which allowed students to take six credits of EITHER International or Diversity coursework, as opposed to our current policy of requiring one course from each. Also, how will the writing requirement be addressed in the Abraham Baldwin coursework?

Lindner recommended tabling this for next meeting to go over concerns with Dr. Brendemuhl, and hopefully have him present next time. Motion passed.

6. Courses for Review

Course	Title	Current GE & WR	Request	Status
ART1010C	Non-Major Photography	---	H, D	Tabled
EML3301C	Mechanics of Materials Lab	---	E6	Approved
ENC3XXX	Writing in Medical Sciences	---	C, E6	Approved
ENC3467	Writing in Comm Science	---	C, E6	Approved
ENC3468	Writing in Physical Science	---	C, E6	Approved
EVR2001	Intro to Environmental Science	---	B, P, N	Approved

ART1010C – Lindner to discuss particular concerns with instructor prior to revisiting in December, including:

- Book meets D criteria, but assignments do not reflect incorporation of content throughout the course.
 - How can a skills-based course incorporate Humanities/Diversity analysis in a way that can be measured by SLOs. That is, the goals for a skill-based course do not regularly match with the deliverables students are asked to deliver for Humanities and/or Diversity courses.
 - Persistent rigor of Humanities and Diversity content throughout the assignments, and not just in discrete blocks on the weekly plan
- Lindner will send a draft list of concerns that committee members will revise, and she will use this list when meeting with the instructor.

EML3301C – Initial concern about all disciplines teaching General Education courses “in-department,” but was approved as this is just a request for Writing

Requirement, and not for General Education designation. Committee liked table on syllabus that indicated timeframe for receiving feedback from Writing Requirement assignments. Approved.

ENC3XXX, ENC3467, ENC3468 – approved as a group.

EVR2001 – Committee was impressed with thoughtful incorporation of content for B, P, and N designations. Brief discussion about whether or not N and D designations were exclusively Social Science or Humanities categories based upon their descriptions on the General Education webpage, but the innovative approach taken by the course developers adequately addressed multi-disciplinary concerns. Instructor was receptive to having faculty members from other disciplines participate as guest lecturers. Approved.