

General Education Committee Meeting

May 1, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 8:30am

Present: Timothy Brophy, Shannon Cochran, Elayne Colon, Eva Czarnecka-Verner, Creed Greer, Christopher Hass, David Julian, Tanya Koropecykj-Cox, John Krigbaum, Bernard Mair, Andrew Ogram, Lynn O’Sickey, Heidi Radunovich, Jennifer Rea, Alison Reynolds, Vicki Sarajedini, and Brenda Smith

Absent: Elif Akcali, Hrishikesh Kumbhojkar, Mario Poceski, and Lisa Spiryda

Guests: Rajeeb Das, Brian Ray, and Amanda Phalin

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

2. Course Structure Policy – Bernard Mair

Mair explained that the policy revision was drafted in response to concerns about some General Education courses being too discipline-specific. Julian expressed concern that the language was potentially discriminatory toward courses where the subject matter was intended for a particular occupation. Others felt that the language did not adequately address the spirit of the concern; that instead the language should require a course to be available to all students. Brophy explained that the language came directly from the SACS Standard 2.7.3 but that the accrediting body would leave interpretation of the standard up to the judgement of the committee. A motion was made for the language to remain as it was proposed, with the addition of another sentence: “Any prerequisites for a General Education course must themselves be courses in the General Education Program.” 12 committee members voted to approve the motion. 2 committee members abstained from voting.

3. Courses for review:

Course#	Title	Current GE & WR	Request	Decision
GLY 3882	Hydrology and Human Affairs	---	P	Approve
GEB 3373	International Business	---	S, N	Table
IDS 4930	Climate Change Science	P	P	Approve
IUF 2100	Climate Change Science	---	P	Approve
IDS 4930	People and Data	S	S	Approve
REL 3171	Ethics in America	H	D, E4	Approve (D only)
GMT 4110	Byzantium Literature & Culture	---	H, E6	Recycle

GLY 3883 *Hydrology and Human Affairs*, Approve.

The committee agreed that this course now meets the 50% threshold of proctored work as required by the Grade Integrity Policy. The course is approved for Physical Science (P) designation.

GEB 3373 *International Business*, Table.

The committee agreed that this course meets the requirements for the International (N) designation; however they felt that the course would not achieve all of the Social Science (S) objectives and did not illustrate the means of appropriately assessing General Education Student Learning Outcomes. Because a course cannot be granted the International designation without another General Education designation, the committee felt that the course should not be approved for either designation. Furthermore, many on the committee expressed that this course is an example of material that is too narrowly focused to be appropriate for the General Education Program. The committee tabled the request pending further discussion.

IDS 4930 *Climate Change Science and Solutions*, Approve.

The course is approved for one-time Physical Science (P) designation for the Fall 2015 semester.

IUF 2100 *Climate Change Science and Solutions*, Approve.

There was concern among some committee members that the provided syllabus did not adequately address how an online version of the course would ensure grade integrity. A motion was made to approve the course as is for Physical Science (P) designation, because the course is not currently offered in a completely online environment, with the understanding that someone from the committee will work with the course director to ensure grade integrity when the course is integrated to a completely online format. 12 committee members voted to approve the motion. 2 committee members abstained from voting.

IDS 4930 *People and Data*, Approve.

This course is approved for one-time Social Science (S) designation for the Fall 2015 semester.

REL 3171 *Ethics in America*, Approve.

This course is approved for Diversity (D) designation only. The committee agreed that the course assignments did not require enough written words to receive the E4 writing requirement designation.

GMT 4110 *Literature and Culture of Byzantium*, Recycle.

The committee needs clarification on how the objectives for the Humanities designation will specifically be achieved in this course, as well as how the Student Learning Outcomes will specifically be assessed in this course. There is also concern about how the communication requirement will be met and assessed if the writing assignments are not required of every student.

4. Assessment Subcommittee Update – David Julian

Julian informed the committee that the General Education website now reflects the updated Student Learning Outcomes, as approved by the General Education Committee, with one suggested change, substituting “principles” for “theories” in the institutional definition of Content, to better align the institutional definition with the defined student learning outcome.

Julian explained that, in response to some of the challenges faced by General Education course instructors in aligning the Student Learning Outcome rubrics with specific course assignments, the subcommittee recommended providing Performance Indicators, rather than using the Student Learning Outcome rubrics to prescribe specific criteria to be evaluated within each category. These Performance Indicators can be used by instructors to develop rubrics appropriate for each specific assignment. The subcommittee developed a set of recommended performance indicators for the committee to review.

Julian added that, if the committee agrees to adopt the Performance Indicators in lieu of Student Learning Outcome rubrics, the language in the UF Core Assessment Plan will need to be revised to reflect this change. The subcommittee recommends replacing “SLO rubrics, and can even be identical to them” with “Student Performance Indicators, and must be reviewed and approved by the General Education Committee.”

The committee approved all changes suggested by the Assessment Subcommittee.

Due to time constraints, all other agenda items were tabled.

Adjourned 10:17am