

**General Education Committee Minutes**

January 4, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

**Members Present:** Elif Akcali, Timothy Brophy, Suzanne Colvin, Barbara Curbow, Melissa Johnson, David Julian, John Krigbaum, Andrew Ogram, Morgan Pigg, Alison Reynolds, and Brenda Smith

**Co-Chairs:** Bernard Mair and Creed Greer

**Executive Secretary:** Ann Greene

**1. Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members:**

Dr. Mair welcomed everyone to the first committee meeting for the new year.

**2. Minutes from the Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved:**

**3. General Education Draft Core Recommendations:**

The Statewide Core recommendations were discussed, including the list of courses for each of the areas and the timeline. In December the Statewide Steering Committee decided to include the Introduction to Humanities course in the humanities list. There were no changes to communication, mathematics, the natural sciences or social sciences course listings. The committee discussed questions being raised with the legislative staff such as whether or not all courses have to be offered, how often the courses have to be offered, and how students would be able to obtain course credit by the usual AP/IB exams. It was stated that there will be no change in the standard process of obtaining credit by exam for these courses. The main concerns centered on outcomes and assessing these outcomes in the courses compared to the general education experience students obtain outside of the courses.

The general education project timeline was determined in order to meet the 2014 implementation date. Once the courses are finalized, the curriculum for majors may need to be modified at the college level. After this is determined, the colleges and departments will have to see how this will impact their programs of study; taking the reduction from 36 to 30 credits into consideration. Fifteen credits will be taken from the statewide core list and the other fifteen will be taken from the list of general education courses, one in each of the 5 areas. The Good Life course will not be used to meet the general education requirements; however, it is still a required course. The committee expressed interest in exploring the idea of creating a scientific literacy course similar to the Good Life course.

Universities will be providing feedback to the Board of Governors on the statewide core proposal on January 31. In order to prepare UF's response the Faculty Senate will be accepting comments on the proposal. Dr. Mair asked the committee members to discuss the proposal with members of their departments and colleges, summarize the comments, submit feedback to the Senate website or directly to him, and then all comments will be combined. One important issue that the Steering Committee is concerned about is the

appropriateness of the timeline, they would like for the Board of Governors to change the implementation date to a year later.

#### **4. GEC Course Recertification Process:**

The committee reviewed 11 courses last Spring and 3 courses were revoked and lost their Gen Ed designation: AST 1002 Discover the Universe, ENY 1001 Bugs and People; and ORI 2000 Oral Interpretation of Literature. AST 1002 and ENY 1001 revised their course curriculum and regained their general education designation through the committee. Dr. Mair granted an extension on the decertification of ORI 2000 for a semester. Since the general education category of communication is somewhat general and traditionally has been interpreted as written communication, while this course emphasizes oral communication. Therefore should the statewide general education communication requirement be interpreted as both written and oral communication, ORI 2000 may fit in that category.

It was stated that when the Steering Committee decided on the one required communication course for the statewide core courses that oral communication was not included but that universities should make an effort to include it in their university requirements. The committee discussed how oral communication is an essential skill for students to have, and UF is unique to the other institutions in the state because UF general education requirements mandate that all general education courses include communication as one of their outcomes. Questions were asked whether to have an oral communication university requirement or to open up the composition category of general education to include courses in oral communication. The committee felt that the writing requirement is more important than oral communication, and voted unanimously approved requirement.

#### **5. Biology GE-B Courses Deletes:**

The General Education Committee approved the request from the Department of Biology to remove General Education designation of Biological (B), from BOT 3151C, PCB 3034C, PCB 3063, PCB 4043C, PCB 4674, PCB 4723C, ZOO 2203C (discontinued course), ZOO 2303C (discontinued course), ZOO 3513C, ZOO 3603C, ZOO 3713C, ZOO 4307C, ZOO4472C effective Fall 2013.

#### **6. Assessment for Gen Ed:**

Implementation of assessments for general education courses for SACS was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10p.m.