

General Education Council Meeting  
 October 21, 2015, Kennesaw Hall, Room 1302

Members Present: Margaret Baldwin (COTA: Theatre and Performance Studies); Jesse Benjamin (CHSS; Sociology); Lucie Viakinnou-Brinson (HSS: Foreign Languages); Joy Brookshire (CSM: Molecular and Cellular Biology); Tom Doleys (CHSS: Political Science); Edward Eanes (COTA: Music); Letizia Guglielmo (HSS: English); Sarah Holmes (COTA: Dance); Deborah Hutchinson (COTA: Arts & Design); Matt Laposata (CSM: Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology); Dorothy Marsil for Corinne McNamara (CHSS: Psychology); Ashley McClure (CC&SE); Huggins Msimanga (CSM: Chemistry); Virginia Rendini for Amy Howton (CHHS: Health Promotion & Physical Ed.); Ryan Ronnenberg (CHSS: History); Susan Rouse (CHSS: Philosophy); Barbara Salyer (BCOE); Deborah Sen (HSS: Anthropology); Bruce Thomas (CSM: Mathematics); Seneca Vaught (CHSS: Interdisciplinary Studies); Matt Waller (CHSS: Geography).

Ex-Officio: Valerie Whittlesey (Provost's office).

Visitors Present: Kevin Gwaltney (OIE); Chris Hutt (UC); Chien-Pin Li (CHSS: Dean's Office).

#### I. Introductions

Val asked everyone to introduce themselves and indicate their GEC discipline, since we now have members of the Marietta campus on the GEC.

#### II. Minutes of the Sept. 16 GEC Retreat.

There was a motion by Seneca and a second by Tom to approve the Sept. 16 meeting minutes. There was a unanimous yes voice vote to accept the minutes.

#### III. Faculty Director of General Education

Val started by giving some background on the rationale for the new Faculty Director of General Education position. Tom Doleys has served as Faculty Coordinator of General Education Assessment for the past 5 years. Tom has accepted a position as Director for the MS in International Conflict Management program in his department. We hate to lose Tom in the gen. ed. assessment role, but we are pleased and congratulate him on this new Director role. The Office of the Provost has been providing the equivalent of a lecturer position to Tom's department, Political Science and International Affairs, for the past 5 years, so Tom could devote 50% of his time to the gen. ed. assessment role.

Given the important of general education to KSU's RRPGE efforts, it makes sense to take that funding, add some additional funding, and create a full-time Faculty Director of General Education. The administration of general education has been

spread across several individuals. Having the administration of general education devoted to one individual will be more effective, efficient, and impactful.

Val indicated she sent a draft ad for the position to GEC members about one week ago. Val indicate the responsibilities the individual will have: 1) general education advocacy and promotion, especially to students; 2) chairing KSU's general education council; 3) analyzing, forecasting, sequencing, and scheduling input to Deans and Chairs for general education course sections; 4) assessment of the general education program; 5) SACS and BOR assessment reporting and reports for the gen. ed. program; and 6) professional development and resource administration and generation. The individual will teach 2 courses each academic year. Val indicated that this individual will serve on a task force within academic affairs to build academic undergraduate major and meta-major maps. Val indicated the proposed experiences and qualifications of the individual as outlined in the draft ad.

The position will be advertised externally, but applications are welcomed from KSU faculty as well. The position will begin Aug. 8, 2016. The position will be advertised online in the Chronicle, Diverse, Inside Higher Ed, and Higher Ed jobs. Val will also send the ad to the Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS) and the American Association of Colleges and Universities and ask that they post the position on their postings webpages. Val took a draft ad to the AGLS meeting in Milwaukee in Sept. and distributed copies. She asked the GEC to please think of other venues to advertise the position.

Letizia indicated that this individual will have a lot to do, and teaching two courses per academic year might be too much. She also asked if the position can be 12 months.

Tom agreed that some responsibilities do occur during the summer. Additionally, Tom asked what kind of authority this individual will have, especially regarding issues such as revising of gen. ed. While he thinks the position should be 12-months, he said there is a concern on campus about the proliferation of administrators.

Val indicated though the position was drafted as 9-months, but there is an annual one course reassignment during the summer for gen. ed. duties occurring during the summer. Regarding the question about authority and gen. ed. reform, those kinds of changes come from the faculty and the departments participating in gen. ed. The individual hired, just like Val who is currently GEC Chair, is a non-voting member of the GEC. The role is facilitative though leadership skills are needed. The individual should also be up-to-date and attend conferences discussing on best practices in gen. ed. and in gen. ed. reform.

Matt asked if we can push the application deadline to the end of January and if the position can be reduced to teaching 1 course per academic year, and all agreed to this. Pushing the application deadline date back allows the holiday break to work on applications.

There was a motion by Jesse and a second by Matt that the position be 12-months rather than 9-months. The vote was 12 in favor of the position as 12-months and 4 not in favor.

Val indicated she would take this back to Provost Harmon and communicate back to the group.

Finally, Val asked for volunteers to serve on the search committee. Huggins, Tom, Seneca, and Margaret agreed to serve. Val will chair the search. Val thanked those four GEC members for agreeing to serve.

#### IV. USG General Education Council- MATH 1112

At their Aug. meeting, the USG-GEC approved, based on the recommendation of the Academic Advisory Committee on Mathematical Subjects, adding MATH 1112 (College Trigonometry) to the USG Academic and Student Affairs handbook, 2.4.10. MATH 1112 now has a common prefix, number, and course description. Institutions also do not have to submit a proposal to the USG-GEC to add the course to core area A2. Since that course is already in KSU's core area A2, this is really an FYI.

#### V. Core Area C2 Literature Learning Outcome- Dorothy Kuykendal

Dorothy couldn't attend today's meeting, so Dorothy asked Tom to indicate the changes the Literature faculty want to make to the C1 (Literature) learning outcome.

The current C1 outcome reads:

"Students will analyze and interpret texts and other creative works from multiple cultures and perspectives."

They would like to change the outcome to read:

"Students will interpret works of literature in light of their historical, social, economic, scientific, and/or other contexts."

Jesse asked why the Literature faculty want to remove the "multicultural analysis and interpretational" focus of the learning outcome. Our society is multicultural and we should be working to multi-culturalize the curriculum.

Tom indicated the former KSU had only one literature course, World Literature, and it was multicultural in focus. The new KSU will include that course along with the former SPSU British Lit, American Lit, and African-American Lit. courses. The problem is we have a curriculum/courses that are set and we are trying to make a learning outcome fit. Typically, you start with a learning outcome and build a curriculum/courses to ensure achievement of the learning outcome. Tom indicated

that the Literature faculty don't have time to revamp all 10 Literature course in C2 to match a learning outcome, since we have only 2 years to show evidence of our gen. ed. assessment to SACS-COC and for our comprehensive program review of gen. ed.

It was decided that Tom would go back to the Literature faculty and ask if they can add "multicultural" to their new language, so the LO would read: "Students will interpret works of literature in light of their historical, social, MULTICULTURAL, economic, scientific, and/or other contexts."

Since there is an "and/or", that gives the faculty the option to address the multicultural contexts.

Tom will report back at the Nov. GEC meeting.

#### VI. Proposal to Faculty Senate- Add Literature rep. to GEC

Val indicated that the English Department voted to add a Literature rep. to the GEC. In the past, the former KSU had one rep. on the GEC, from Composition, when English had 2 composition courses and one literature course as part of the gen. ed. program. With the new U., there are still the 2 composition courses, but there are now 10 literature courses. Those two disciplines are different, and there are a different set of faculty for each.

Val and Dorothy made a request to the Faculty Senate to add a Lit rep. to the GEC, and the faculty senate approved the proposal on Monday, Oct. 19.

The GEC was agreeable to this addition.

#### VII. Re-Join Gateways to Completion- USG Cohort

KSU was one of about 15 institutions selected to participate in the John Gardner Institute's Gateways to Completion (G2C) initiative back in fall, 2013. This is an institution-wide, data-drive initiative to address student success in 5 high enrollment, general education courses with high D, F, W, I rates.

Two months into the initiative, the consolidation with SPSU was announced, so KSU decided to pull out of the initiative and re-join after the consolidation was complete. It was deemed important to re-join later, since this fits with Complete College GA.

We were planning to re-join in fall, 2016. However, the USG brought John Gardner and Drew Koch from the John Gardner Institute for a USG workshop on Sept. 29 in Macon to see if USG institutions were interested in participating in G2C as a cohort. Houston David, USG Executive Academic Vice Chancellor, attended the workshop

and said he wanted the USG-G2C cohort to begin work late fall, 2015 or early Jan, 2016, if there are sufficient institutions on board.

Val and Scott Reese attended the USG workshop in Macon. Subsequent to the USG workshop, Val and Scott met with Provost Harmon, and they thought that it made sense to participate with the USG cohort rather than waiting until fall, 2016. Ken asked Val and Scott if they would serve as KSU's co-chairs and they agreed.

Val indicated that as she finds out more info. she will update the group in future meetings.

#### VIII. General Education Assessment

Tom indicated that he met with the B2 DACs to discuss what critical thinking instrument they want to use for assessment of the critical thinking LO. The CT instruments they are considering are all nationally recognized ones that have been around for a while and have strong reliability and validity. Tom said he and the DACs hope to make a decision soon. In addition to deciding on an instrument, the group will also need to determine what kind of student sampling will occur, and how to gain access to students. Will we ask faculty to embed the instrument into their courses or will we ask students to participate outside of class? If the later, how can we get a sufficient sample and ensure that students are motivated to perform well.

Finally, Tom said whatever is decided, he stressed that this is not an assessment of any individual faculty or even an assessment of the course. It is rather an assessment of student learning.

The meeting was adjourned.