

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

Members Present: Margaret Baldwin (COTA: Theatre and Performance Studies); Lucie Viakinnou-Brinson (HSS: Foreign Languages); Joy Brookshire (CSM: Molecular and Cellular Biology); Tom Doleys (CHSS: Political Science); Letizia Guglielmo (HSS: English); Amy Howton (HHS: Health Promotion and Physical Education); Deborah Hutchinson (COTA: Arts & Design); Corinne McNamara (CHSS: Psychology); Huggins Msimanga (CSM: Physics); Jan Phillips (CHSS: Communication); Susan Rouse (CHSS: Philosophy); Barbara Salyer (BCOE); Deborah Sen (HSS: Anthropology); Bruce Thomas (CSM: Mathematics); Chris Totten (HSS: Criminal Justice); Seneca Vaught (CHSS: Interdisciplinary Studies); Matt Waller (CHSS: Geography).

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

Visitors Present: Chien-Pin Li (CHSS: Dean's Office).

I. Introductions

Val asked everyone to introduce themselves and indicate their GEC discipline. The reps. from the Marietta campus were welcomed.

II. Minutes of the Aug. 13 GEC Retreat.

There was a motion and second to approve the Aug. 13 retreat meeting minutes. There was a unanimous yes voice vote.

III. 2015-16 GEC membership

Due to the consolidation, the GEC has an updated structure. The GEC has traditionally had one college representative from a college without courses in the general education program. Prior to consolidation, Bagwell was the only college without courses in the gen. ed. program. There are now 3 other colleges without courses in the gen. ed. program: 1) College of Architecture and Construction Management, 2) College of Computing and Software Engineering, and 3) College of Engineering and Eng. Technology. Those 3 reps. were added to the structure.

Val presented this revision to the Faculty Senate at their Aug. 24 meeting. In addition, the GEC structure as listed in the 2015-16 Faculty Handbook was cleaned up.

- 1) Visual Arts is now Arts and Design, so that change was made.
- 2) There are courses from the Interdisciplinary Department in the gen. ed. program, so an ISD rep. was added.
- 3) There are now 2 Biology departments: a) Molecular and Cellular Biology and b) Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology. Since these two departments share

several gen. ed. courses (BIOL 1107/L, BIOL 1108/L, SCI 1101, and SCI 1102), there is one rep. from each of these two departments.

Val shared the updated GEC structure as it will be listed in the 2015-16 faculty handbook and as approved by the faculty senate. Val also shared an updated 2015-16 GEC roster.

IV. GEC Representative on UPCC is Michael Patrono

Michael agreed to serve on the UPCC representing the GEC. All thanked Michael for agreeing to serve.

V. BOR Policy- Characteristics of Acceptable Technology Courses- Areas B and D

Val reminded the group that we submitted IT 2101 (Computers and Your World) to the BOR-USG twice several years ago. Both times, the USG-GEC rejected the proposal to place the course in core area D. Several other institutions have had the same experience of rejections of their proposed computer and technology courses in core areas B and D.

As a result, the USG-GEC during summer of 2015 developed a statement on the characteristics of technology courses appropriate and not appropriate for core areas B and D. In general, skill-based courses that focus on developing software package use skills are not appropriate for these two core areas. Additionally courses that emphasize design without a concurrent algorithmic coding emphasis or courses that focus exclusively on the historical or social aspects of technology are not appropriate for area D. These guidelines are on the USG GEC webpage in the "Related Documents" section.

VI. General Education Assessment

The appropriate departments are working on putting the following core course proposals into Curriculog:

- Social Issues (2105) courses- Delete all 6 courses from core area B1
- ECON 1100 (Global Economics) - Move this course from core area E4 to core area B1 and convert it from 3-hours to 2 hours
- ANTH 1102, CRJU 1101, GEOG 1101, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101, and STS 1101- Add these six Intro. courses to core area E4, as options with ECON 2100 (Microeconomics)

It was decided that the learning outcome for areas E3 and 4 should be changed to reflect the addition of the 6 courses.

The old LO for core areas E3 and E4 area is: "Students analyze the complexity of how historical, economic, and political relationships develop, persist, or change."

With the addition of ANTH 1101, CRJU 1101, GEOG 1101, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101, and STS 1101 moving to E4, the new proposed LO for core areas E3 and 4 is: "Students analyze how human relationships develop, persist, and/or change."

Jan made a motion to approve the new LO language, and the motion was seconded by Corinne. There was a unanimous yes voice vote.

Tom will communicate with Michael to make sure that he knows of the new LO assessing ECON 2100.

Tom indicated that all of the DACs doing pilot or actual assessments for this 2015-16 academic year have been identified. He is also pleased that he has commitments from 12 DACS doing legacy assessments this year.

The major task for this year is core area B. B1 has a critical thinking LO. B2 has a similar, but different critical thinking LO. Tom would like one CT LO for both areas.

Additionally, the GEC has decided to use a 3rd party critical thinking instrument to assess B2. We will not assess B1, since the Social Issues courses are going away.

Tom would like to create an area B2 ad-hoc committee consisting of the area B2 GEC members, since those individuals are the DACs for their disciplines.

He anticipates that this group will only need a few meetings to: 1) develop proposed language for one CT LO for core areas B1 and 2) to present to the GEC, and 2) identify a CT instrument to assess B2. Tom said the group needs to determine how students will be sampled, including how will students be incentivized. The group also need to determine if they want an instrument that involves scantron scoring or if faculty want to score students' open ended responses.

Tom will be emailing these GEC members by the end of the week.

Finally, Tom indicated that he is stepping out of the Faculty Coordinator of Gen. Ed. Assessment role at the end of this 2015-16 academic year. He is now Program Coordinator for the MS in International Conflict Management program in his department.

Val indicated that we are all pleased for Tom and congratulate him on his new role. But it is bittersweet. We hate to see him leave the Gen. Ed. Assessment role.

Val indicated that Academic Affairs will convert the Gen. Ed. Assessment role into a Faculty Director of General Education, and she will provide more info. on a draft ad of the position at the Oct. meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.