

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
Weds., Jan. 16, 2013
3:30 – 5:00 pm, Leadership Room

Attendees

Voting Members: Margaret Baldwin (COTA; TPS); Jesse Benjamin (HSS; Interdisciplinary Studies); Beth Daniell (HSS; English); Tom Doleys (HSS; Political Science); Debbie Geist (UC; FYP); Amy Howton (HSS; HPS); Matt Laposata (CSM; Biology); Noah McLaughlin (HSS; Foreign Languages); Huggins Msimanga (CSM); Michael Patrono (Coles: Economics); Nancy Pullen (HSS; Geography); Tom Pynn (HSS; Philosophy); Gail Scott (HSS; Psychology); Kristen Seaman (COTA; Visual Arts); Cristina Stephens (HSS; Sociology) Bruce Thomas (CSM; Mathematics/Statistics); Guichun Zong (EDUC; Secondary Ed. and Middle Grades).

Guests: Ernesto Silva, ISD; Ugender Whitlock, ISD.

Nonvoting Members: Valerie Whittlesey (Academic Affairs)

I. Review/Approval Nov. 14 GEC Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second to approve the Nov. 14 meeting minutes followed by a unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes.

II. Introductions

Members of the GEC and visitors introduced themselves.

III. General Education Assessment Update

Tom indicated that the core areas B and C DACs are moving ahead with piloting their assessments. They are developing rubrics based on their learning outcomes and beginning to select instruments to measure the LOs and rubrics. Tom stressed that the focus is on developing and using instruments that are comparable across the various courses that will be assessed. Core areas A1 and E are collecting their actual assessment data.

Val asked if any students have opted out of IRB assessment for areas A1 and E yet. Tom indicated that he didn't think so, but he asked Val to make sure that he, Beth, and Jeff will receive emails of any students who complete the IRB opt out forms.

Huggins asked if SACS has general education assessment models that the GEC can see. Val indicated the SACS standard related to general education assessment is 3.5.1. SACS does have a Resource Manual which articulates the evidence they want to see for each standard. Val will send this to the GEC and put this on the agenda to discuss for the February GEC meeting.

Tom thanked the DACs for their work. There is a meeting of the area A1, B, C, and E DACs on January 30.

Val asked the GEC if they asked faculty in their disciplines teaching general education courses for spring to include the general education paragraph in their syllabi. The group said yes, and faculty have complied with this request.

IV. Six New Course Proposals for Core Area B- 1st Review- ASIA 1102, RELS 1102, PAX 1102, LALS 1102, GWST 1102, AADS 1102

Jesse indicated that AMST 1102 was approved for core area B last year and is now being offered. He mentioned at that time that ISD would bring forward other similar course proposals for core area B during this year. Jesse indicated that the courses would meet the critical thinking overlay, especially since these courses are interdisciplinary in focus.

Beth asked if this means that there would be a diversity requirement in general education. Jesse indicated that was not the goal in moving these courses forward. That is a separate conversation.

Gail indicated that she serves on the UPCC. She suggested that the course syllabi use a standard template and have consistency/standardization, especially since they are all being proposed under the ISD umbrella. The syllabi need to all have common Student Integrity and Student Absence policy statements.

Margaret thought the courses are a good idea, especially as part of the learning communities program.

There was a motion and second for a first review of the courses. Revisions were recommended when the proposals are brought back for a second review by the GEC in February: 1) the course syllabi should have consistency and 2) the course proposal and course syllabi should reference the recently revised critical thinking overlay language. The first review hand vote was 19 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain.

Meeting Adjourned.