

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2013
3:30 – 5:00 pm, Leadership Room

Attendees:

Voting Members: Margaret Baldwin (COTA; TPS); Beth Daniell (HSS; English); Tom Doleys (HSS; Political Science); Amy Howton (HSS; HPS); Debbie Geist (UC; FYP); Matt Laposata (CSM; Biology); Noah McLaughlin (HSS; Foreign Languages); Huggins Msimanga (CSM); Sandra Parks (COTA; Dance); Tom Pynn (HSS; Philosophy); Gail Scott (HSS; Psychology); Kristen Seaman (COTA; Art & Design); Cristina Stephens (HSS: Sociology & Criminal Justice); Bruce Thomas (CSM; Mathematics/Statistics).

Guests:

Keisha Hoerner (UC); Christopher Hutt (Student Success Services); Wenhua Jin (HSS; Foreign Languages); Thierry Leger (HSS).

I. Review/Approval March 20 GEC Meeting Minutes

Minor changes were suggested to correct errors in the attendant list. There was a motion and second to approve the March 20 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

II. Christopher Hutt – new Director of Center for First Year & Undeclared Advising

Dr. Hutt introduced himself to the GEC.

III. Keisha Hoerner – Online Orientation for KSU Web Learners

Virtual Orientation: Dr. Hoerner provided an overview of the online orientation materials currently provided to those KSU students classified as “web learners”. Specific attention was directed to the section of the orientation that addressed academic policies. GEC members expressed deep concern about the quality of information presented. Some information had no relevance to web learners (e.g., learning communities) while some information GEC members considered critical for first year students was overlooked (e.g., the structure of general education).

Dr. Hoerner drew attention to the online orientation site at Appalachian State Univ (era.appstate.edu) as a model KSU might consider. GEC members concurred.

Tom D. asked if there was a discussion underway to incorporate online elements into orientation for the general KSU population. Dr. Hoerner answered that she was unaware of any such discussions.

KSU Student Handbook: Dr. Hoerner highlighted those elements of the current student handbook presented in the one line orientation materials. Attention was given to the uneven presentation of academic information and incomplete coverage of KSU colleges.

GEC members raised questions about the authorship of the student handbook. GEC members expressed a desire for faculty to be more involved in the development of the student handbook.

GEC members charged Tom D. with bringing both matters to the attention of the Provost's Office. GEC expressed a strong desire that the module of the online orientation be addressed immediately – shutting down the module on academic policies, if necessary, until necessary corrections and clarifications are made. GEC suggests that information should be recast, away from a focus on information contained in the KSU Student Handbook and toward that found in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog.

GEC also expressed a desire to find ways for Academic Affairs and Student Success to work more closely in the design and implementation of orientation materials. In particular, the GEC would like to see orientation modified in ways that provide more information about General Education.

IV. KOR 1002- for core area B- 2nd Reading - Wenhua Jin

Wenhua indicated that all changes suggested during 1st reading were made. The course was approved by a vote of 13 yes, 0 no and 0 abstentions.

V. General Education Video - Margaret Baldwin

Margaret indicated that she was working on the presentation of general education-related material contained in six slides currently part of the new student orientation process.

VI. General Education Assessment Update - Tom Doleys

Tom indicated that everything is going according to schedule.

Tom emphasized the need for all GEC disciplines not to look at assessment as a one-off exercise to satisfy external constituents (i.e., SACS). Rather, assessment should be approached in ways that have value within individual disciplines. The hope is to implement assessment processes that are both meaningful and sustainable.

VII. General Education Assessment and IRB Certification

Tom D. notified those GEC members already involved in the General Education assessment process that it is not necessary to renew annually their certification. Gail noted that certifications are good for three years. Only those DACs scheduled to join the assessment process (Area A2 and D DACs) will be asked to complete the certification process during the upcoming year.

VIII. Auburn University Global Perspectives on College and University Teaching conference

Gail reported on the global learning presentation. She also related how work associated with the global learning project has influenced her Intro to Psychology course.

IX. AAC&U Global Learning in College Shared Futures meeting

Tom reported that the group's proposal was accepted.

X. AAC&U Institute on High Impact Student Practices and Students Success

Beth reported that the group's proposal was accepted.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.