

General Education Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, January 15, 2014
 3:30 – 5:00 pm
 Burruss Building, Room 368

Voting Members: Margaret Baldwin (COTA; Theatre and Performance Studies); Natalie Berry (COTA; Dance); Olaf Berwald (for Noah McLaughlin (HSS; Foreign Languages)); Cathy Bradford (UC; FYTS); Beth Daniell (HSS; English); Tom Doleys (HSS; Political Science); David Johnson II (HHS; ESSM); Matt Lapasota (CSM; Biology); Huggins Msimanga (CSM; Chemistry); Mike Patrono (Coles; Economics); Gail Scott (HSS; Psychology); Kristen Seaman (COTA; Art & Design); Bruce Thomas (CSM; Mathematics/Statistics); Guichun Zong (Bagwell; SMGE).

Guests: Ana Edwards (Registrar's Office; Jamie Grimes, Provost's Office; Keisha Hoerrner, UC; John Smith; Registrar's Office; Michael Sanseviro; Student Success).

Nonvoting Members: Valerie Whittlesey (Academic Affairs)

I. Minutes of Nov. 20 GEC Meeting

There was a motion and second to accept the meeting minutes following by a unanimous "yes" voice vote.

II. Overview of Foundations of Excellence First-Year Programs Self- Study Refresher- Keisha and Michael

KSU was a founding member of the FOE first-year programs self-study ten years ago. This led to the formation of the University College and KSU's focus on and successes with first-year students. The self-study refresher is a time to look at ourselves again. Michael and Keisha invited members of the GEC to join the one of the self-study committees.

Kris said one of the issues that might be incorporated into the self-study is addressing the difficulties PT faculty have. They teach many of the first-year students. If PT faculty teach the maximum number of courses they are allowed by BOR policies, they can't be paid for participating in professional development, and their salaries are very low. Natalie suggested that PT faculty council members serve on the FOE first-year study refresher.

III. Gateways to Completion (G2C)

Tom and Val indicated that G2C is a three-year initiative to address up to five courses that are high-enrollment, lower division courses with high D, F, W, and I rates. KSU was planning to participate beginning this fall, 2013. But given the consolidation with SPSU and recommendations from

Provost Harmon, the decision was made to postpone KSU's participation to fall, 2014. Tom indicated that we want to be respectful of faculty's time and not overburden them this spring semester.

IV. Gen. Ed. Assessment

Tom indicated that all is going well. He is getting emails from peer institutions who have heard what we are doing with gen. ed. assessment. He has indicated that those in the first assessment cohort (English and Political Science) have some faculty who want to continue with an additional optional year of gen. ed. assessment.

Val and GEC members thanked Tom for this work.

V. Updated USG Core Curriculum Proposal

The USG has a new electronic core curriculum proposal form. Val reiterated that applications for new core area A-F courses must be completed on this form, and changes to existing courses in core A-F courses must be completed on this form. The new form also references BOR policies for several items of the form, including: 1) requests for exceptions to core area prerequisite guidelines and 2) requests for students in one or more degree programs to take specific courses in core areas A-E. There is an additional BOR level of review for these two requests: Regents Administrative Committee on Academic Affairs.

Val and Jamie indicated that they will go to the UPCC to communicate this new form.

Gail asked if changes in course descriptions for core area courses need approval by the BOR. Val indicated that minor edits in course descriptions that do not change the content or focus of the course do not need BOR approval. But changes in content and focus will need BOR approval. Gail asked what about changing a course description to include global learning. Val said that would need BOR approval.

Val reminded the GEC that Curriculog was implemented for graduate curriculum proposals this semester. Curriculog will be implemented for undergraduate curriculum proposals in fall, 2014. Beth indicated that even though Curriculog seems to be a good system, a lot of online systems (Concur, Digital Measures, etc.) have been implemented on campus at the same time. The Concur system has a lot of bugs, the Digital Measures system is time consuming, and the Faculty People Admin system is onerous. Val indicated that she agrees, and she, Jamie, Jennifer, and David will work with faculty to assist with the Curriculog implementation.

VI. The Association for General and Liberal Studies (AGLS) is hosting their annual conference in Atlanta in Sept. 2014. This professional organization promotes excellence in general education. The call for proposals for the meeting will be posted on their webpage in Feb. 2014. Val encouraged GEC members to submit proposals (individually or in groups) regarding innovative general education teaching practices and regarding their gen. ed. assessment initiatives. Val indicated she would ask Provost Harmon to pay the conference registration for those who present at the conference, and she will ask Provost Harmon if he will fund 2-3 GEC members who are not presenting to attend the conference. Val will provide the link to the call for proposals at the Feb. GEC meeting.

VII. KSU-SPSU Consolidation

Val indicated that there are 81 operational working groups for the KSU-SPSU consolidation. There are two co-chairs for the OWGs, one from KSU and one from SPSU. There is a general education/core curriculum OWG. Val encouraged members of the GEC and other gen. ed. faculty to volunteer for the OWG by going to the consolidation webpage and signing up. The OWGs will begin their work within the week.

Tom indicated that the OWG has the potential to not just integrate KSU's and SPSU's general education programs into one, but the core curriculum OWG can start from scratch. They can really recreate a gen. ed. program from the ground up.

Val thanked all for attending. The meeting was adjourned.