

General Education Council Meeting  
 January 21, 2015  
 University College, Room 202

Members Present: Margaret Baldwin (COTA: Theatre and Performance Studies); Cathy Bradford (UC: FYTS); Beth Daniell (CHSS: English); Tom Doleys (CHSS: Political Science); Amy Howton (HHS: Health Promotion and Physical Education); Matt Laposata (CSM: Biology); Noah McLaughlin (CHSS: Foreign Languages); Huggins Msimanga (CSM: Physics); Sarasij Majumder (CHSS: ISD); Jan Phillips (CHSS: Communication); Barbara Salyer (Bagwell College); Nancy Hoalst Pullen (CHSS: Geography); Gail Scott (CHSS: Psychology); Kristen Seaman (COTA: Art and Design); Bruce Thomas (CSM: Mathematics).

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

Visitors Present: Vanessa Bard (CEET: Marietta Campus); Chien-Pin Li (CHSS: Dean's Office); Betsy Smith (FYUAC: UC); John Smith (Registrar's Office).

I. Approval of Nov. 19 meeting minutes

There was a motion (Jan) and second (Tom D.) to approve the Nov. 19 meeting minutes. There was a unanimous yes voice vote.

II. Welcome- Consolidated KSU faculty and staff

All attending the meeting introduced themselves, since we invited SPSU faculty and staff to join our spring, 2015 meetings.

Val asked the Deans of CHSS, CSM, and Coles to provide a SPSU representation on the GEC for this spring semester, but the 3 Deans said they could not get anyone to volunteer.

III. Revised Core Curriculum Submission (based on feedback of USG GEC) & Resubmission Approved by USG GEC

Val outlined all that has transpired since the Nov. 2014 GEC meeting.

We submitted the proposed core for the new U. to the system office on Oct. 31. The USG GEC met around Nov. 20. During the week of Dec. 8, Barbara Brown at the system office sent feedback from the USG Gen. Ed. Council's review of our core curriculum proposal for the new University. The USG GEC had several concerns/recommendations:

- 1) They wanted to know why we did not change some of our course numbers, prefixes, and titles to conform with USG core course conventions.
- 2) They did not want the critical thinking and global perspectives overlays in several areas unless we tweak the language specifically for the courses in that particular area/grouping. In addition, we need at least one overlay or LO in each core area.
- 3) They suggested some minor tweaking of some of the other overlays and LO wording.
- 4) They asked what courses STEM, Health Science, and all other majors take in core areas

A2, D1, and D2.

- 5) They had concerns about the focus of our area B courses, since that was not clear.
- 6) Biggest issue: They asked us to remove Intro. to Psychology, Human Geography, Anthropology, and Geography from core area B for two reasons: A) Those courses are 3 credit hours and put the total number of gen. ed. credit hours at 43 rather than 42. B) Those courses are typically in core area E not B.

Disclaimer: Related to #6, the BOR has been cracking down on substituting non-core courses for core courses. Since KSU has been substituting Intro to Psychology, Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology courses for Social Issues courses, we can't continue that going forward, and the practice must cease by the end of spring semester, 2015.

The USG GEC was planning to meet virtually during the middle of January, so they asked us to resubmit our core proposal to them by Monday, Jan. 12.

Barbara and I emailed back and forth for a couple of days, so I could make sure I understood the feedback. I also clarified a couple of issues with her. We resolved #1 (above) immediately. We only need to change COM 1109 to 1100 to match USG conventions. The Microeconomics, Public Speaking, Literature, and Chemistry courses are considered grandfathered in after we conveyed the difficulty of changing prefixes, numbers, and titles for those courses. Barbara Gainey and COM faculty were good with the COM 1100 numbering.

Since it was around Dec. 10, we didn't have time to get a GEC meeting together. So I talked to Dr. Harmon and outlined the feedback, and we discussed some ways to address the feedback to meet the Jan. 12 deadline. Since Tom Nelson and I co-chaired the #11 (Core Curriculum) OWG together, but Tom N. is no longer at SPSU, Ken and I thought, given the time restrictions, to ask Julie Newell, who is replacing Tom Nelson at SPSU, and Tom Doleys, to work with us to address the USG GEC feedback. We also enlisted the assistance of Scott Reese and Marla Bell, in the CSM Dean's office, to address the area A1, D1, and D2 STEM, Pre-health, and all other majors questions.

Julie, Tom D, and I discussed with Dr. Harmon that we wanted to develop a proposal to address USG GEC concerns and send it to the KSU and SPSU Deans before the holiday break (mark it as urgent) and ask them to please share it with their Chairs and college faculty immediately. That email would also indicate that we would send the revised core proposal to the consolidated UPCC and GEC on Jan. 5 and ask them to vote on the proposal by Jan. 7 to make the USG GEC deadline of Jan. 12 for a resubmission. Dr. Harmon and I met with Robin Dorff about #6 above and the substitution issue. Robin was in agreement with the proposal, but would also get the input from the CHSS faculty.

We took the path of "least resistance" in addressing USG GEC since we had little time for a resubmission. Julie, Tom, Scott, Marla, and I had a conference call with Barbara Brown (System office) and Bob Boehmer, Chair of the USG GEC, on Dec. 17 and shared a tentative core resubmission proposal with them to make sure it addressed all their concerns, and they said it

did. About one hour later, I presented at the Dec. 17 Chairs/Director's meeting and asked the Chairs to share the proposal with their dept. and provide us feedback.

#### Summary of Revised Core Proposal

- 1) We removed the overlays, so that there was only one in each core area. We put the overlays where they were at the old KSU, since we have 2-3 years of gen. ed. assessment data.
- 2) The focus of area B is on critical thinking, which was the focus of area B at the old KSU and the old SPSU.
- 3) Given the time restriction, we removed Intro to Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and Geography from area B as requested (& from the core). We recommend revisiting areas B and E when we have time and have full faculty participation in discussions and decisions.

Over the holiday break, Julie, Tom D., Scott, Marla, and I continued to proof the proposal to send to the GEC and UPCC for a vote. On Jan. 5, we sent an email to the consolidated UPCC and GEC members asking them to vote on the proposed core changes by Weds, Jan. 7. This consolidated group voted to approve the changes to the core proposal.

A summary of the GEC/UPCC vote is as follows:

- 1) Do you approve the revised overlays and learning outcomes for the core?  
94% yes    6% no
- 2) Do you approve removing the Introduction to General Psychology, Human Geography, Sociology, and Anthropology courses from core area B1?  
66% yes    34% no
- 3) Do you approve renumbering COM 1109 to 1100 to conform with USG common course titles, prefixes, numbers, and descriptions?  
100% yes    0% no
- 4) Do you approve the notes specifying what area A2, D1, and D2 courses STEM, Health Science, and other majors take?  
91% yes    9% no

33 GEC/UPCC members responded to the survey poll.

We submitted the revised proposed to the USG GEC on Jan. 9. On Jan. 16, the USG GEC notified us that they approved our proposal WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COM 2129, WHICH WAS REMOVED FROM CORE AREA B.

Cathy asked about students who have already been told that their Intro. course substitutes for the Social Issues course, will that agreement be honored? Val indicated that yes it will be. But we can no longer make these substitution agreements after spring semester, 2015.

A question was asked what if a student takes one of the Intro courses in the core at another USG institution and transfers to KSU. Val indicated that BOR policy indicates that we will accept that course in the core.

Gail and Nancy expressed dismay that the Intro courses are not in the core and the negative impacts this will have on their departments. Gail asked when a discussion of putting those courses in area E will occur.

Cathy indicated the negative impact that this will have on the LCs.

Val indicated that we have continually conveyed that new the core would not be perfect for fall, 2015, since we are under time pressures. Val was not sure about the answer to Gail's, Nancy's, and Cathy's questions. Val indicated that she can certainly ask Dr. Harmon if he is willing to attend a GEC meeting to discuss the options. Val did indicate though that she recommends that we wait for this discussion until we have a consolidated GEC. Although we made the invitation for SPSU faculty to join the GEC for spring, no one volunteered. We need to have a discussion about the core when we have GEC representation from both the Kennesaw and Marietta campuses.

#### IV. Community Engagement Initiative- Brian Wooten

Brian indicated that Carnegie recently announced that KSU has the designation of a "Community Engaged" Institution. KSU will have this designation for 10 years, beginning on Jan. 1. 2015. During the 10-year period, KSU will complete a process to assess and demonstrate how community engagement has been further expended, deepened, and integrated at KSU.

He indicated it is not an award, but an evidence-based documentation of institutional practices based on a self-study. For the 2015 selection process, 241 institutions requested to participate, and 83 institutions that submitted an application received the first-time classification. KSU is 1 of 10 institutions (public and private) in GA to have the designation.

The next steps for the initiative are for the President's task force on Community Engagement to develop a strategic plan to guide the evolution of community engagement at KSU.

Brian indicated that one of the things he would like to do on the academic side is to designate in the registration system those courses that are community engaged ones to begin a tracking system, much like the global learning courses.

He said that there are some good models of infusing community engagement into gen. ed. Good examples exists at Penn State, UNC-Greensboro, and Portland State.

Brian ended by indicating that he conducted focus groups with KSU faculty on what is needed to further enhance community engagement into courses. He will send a summary report of those focus groups to Val to send on to the GEC.

#### V. General Education Assessment Update- Tom Doleys

All is going well. This academic year marks the end of a full gen. ed. assessment cycle. There was discussion of what happens next. Tom indicated that assessment will be a larger initiative with the new University with the core that was approved. He will present a general education assessment proposal to the GEC during spring semester. Our 10-year reaccreditation is 2017.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting (& last of 2014-15 academic year)- Weds, April 15, 3:30-5:00, University College, Room 202