UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of February 19th, 2007


Absent: Joan Morris.

Ex-Officio/Guests: Andrew Smith, Diane Williams, Janet Moore, Pat Maher, Arka Bhattacharya.

The meeting was called to order at 3.00 p.m. in SVC 2080.

Minutes – The Minutes of February 5th, 2007 were approved by all.

Announcements –

1. Provost visit moved to March 5th
2. Request to Faculty Senate for Change in GEC membership:
   • One staff members from the Library will be added to the GEC membership.
   • Four staff members from the College of Arts and Sciences will be incorporated in the GEC membership.
   • VP of USF St. Petersburg Undergraduate Council will be included as an ex-officio member.
3. Application Process:
   • A new course proposal process website will be updated shortly which will streamline the entire operation and simplify it for faculty submissions.
4. New Incentive Deadline:
   • The GEC discussed the deadline for the courses to be approved to be eligible for the incentive, which amounts to $1500 per course submission for up to three courses per department. The Council tentatively agreed on April 30th as the deadline.

New Business Discussions

1. Gordon Rules Discussion (http://teachingwiki.org)

The General Education Council revised the second paragraph of USF Gordon rule communication guidelines, which concerns the instructor’s feedback and revisions by the student. The USF Gordon rule communication guidelines now read:

“Courses approved to meet the USF Gordon Rule Communication requirements enable students to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Students will engage in writing as a “process,” which means employing strategies such as pre-writing, co-authoring, document design, peer feedback, revising, and editing. Overall, students will learn how to develop ideas and texts that follow academic/disciplinary conventions for different contexts, audiences, and purposes. Such assignments may include, but are not limited to, research papers, essays, creative writing, journals, written examinations, portfolios, case studies, letters, and proposals.

An integral part of writing instruction is the opportunity to revise documents in response to feedback, so students should revise at least some course writing assignments after receiving feedback from faculty or graders assigned to the course. At a minimum, students should write 4500 words for each course, excluding assignments for which students do not receive any feedback. At least one assignment should include
submission of a revision in response to substantive teacher/grader feedback. All stages of such papers count toward the 4500 word minimum.

Students must achieve a proficiency level of at least C- in the course in order to receive Gordon Rule credit. To enable quality feedback on written work, USF Gordon Rule Communication courses should not have more than 30 students per grader.” The above definition of communication guidelines were approved by all. The GEC also discussed the grading process in the writing portion and its impact upon the course grade. Process writing with feedback from the instructor is encouraged within the approved revisions.

Course Proposal Review Status –

Approved Courses

- **CGS 2060 - Introduction to Computers and Programming in Basic, 6A (11/22/2006)----- Approved**
  This course introduces to programming using the BASIC language and application to computational methods. The course focuses on systematic approach to problem solving. It is an overview of computer systems, applications & their role in society. It was approved by all and no funding from the GEC was requested. This is a Gordon Rule computation course.
  
  **Core Area:** Quantitative reasoning  
  **Dimensions:** CT, I, SP, QL.

- **EUH 2011 – Ancient History I (01/03/2007) ------- Approved.**
  This course is an introductory survey of ancient history. EUH 2011 treats the ancient Near East, Egypt and Greece from the origins of civilization to the Hellenistic kingdoms following the death of Alexander the Great. The course was approved by all. The GEC tabled a decision on funding, Tabled soon.
  
  **Core Area:** Humanities  
  **Dimensions:** CT, I, HHCP, HCD.

- **EVR 2002 – Environmental Science: Regional and Global Issues (01/04/2007) --------------- Approved but need to be specific on assignment issues.**
  In this course students will learn how the environment functions and how humans, through social, political and economic activities, are creating a degraded, dysfunctional environment. The course was approved but proposal needs to have one dimension dropped and it requires being specific on assignments. No funding was requested from the GEC.
  
  **Core Area:** Physical Sciences  
  **Dimensions:** CT, I, SP, GC, EP.

- **FRT 3140 – French Literary Masterpieces in English Translation (01/03/2007) -----------Approved.**
  This course comprises of a survey of the major literary works of France, tracing not only literary but also intellectual and cultural history from the Middle Ages to the present. It’s an exit course and the department will have own resources to support the TAs. The course was approved by all.
  
  **Core Area:** Exit Course  
  **Dimensions:** CT, I, CIPE, EP.

- **EGN 3835 – Globalization and Technology (01/05/2007) -----------Approved.**
  This course involves the exploration of the fundamental processes underlying globalization with particular emphasis on the role of technological development in both historical and contemporary context. This course was approved by all and no funding was requested from the GEC.
  
  **Core Area:** Cultural Diversity and Global Context  
  **Dimensions:** CT, I, GC, HHCP.

- **SYP 3000 – Social Psychology (12/26/2006) -----------Approved.**
  This course explores social forces shaping individual perceptions/behaviors/personality/identity. The course addresses our participation in society, how people influence each other, how we act based on beliefs & why this is important. The department will provide resources for TAs required for the course.
The course needs to have lesser dimensions as it has 8 dimensions currently. The course needs to focus on 4 dimensions. The course was approved by all.

**Core Area:** Social and Behavioral Sciences  
**Dimensions:** CT, I, HCD, IL.

### Returned/Pending Courses

- ARH 2050 - History of Visual Arts I (12/19/2006)  
  pending further information from Director.

- ARH 2051 - History of Visual Arts II (12/20/2006)  
  pending further information from Director.

- GEA 2000 - World Regional Geography (12/21/2006)  
  pending information about funding request.

- ISS 1101 - Knowledge and Society (12/07/2006)  
  returned for further information.

- THE 3110 - Theatre History I (12/12/2006)  
  returned for further information.

- THE 3111 - Theatre History II (12/12/2006)  
  returned for further information.

- AMH 2010 – American History I (01/05/2007)  
  pending.

- BSC 1005 – Biology for Life (01/11/2007)  
  returned for further information.

- WST 4522 – Classics in Feminist Theory (01/03/2007)  
  pending. (funding request needs to be discussed).

- THE 2252 - Great Performances on Film (01/04/2007)  
  returned for further information

- GEO 2400 – Human Geography (01/04/2007)  
  pending.

- GEO 2371 – Introduction to Earth Systems Science (01/05/2007)  
  pending.

- GEO 2200 – Introduction to Physical Geography (01/05/2007)  
  pending information about funding request.

- ISS 1103 – Nature and Culture (01/03/2007)  
  pending.

- PHI 1401 – Science and Society (01/05/2007)  
  pending.

- ISS 1102 – Self and Society (01/05/2007)  
  pending.

- STA 2122 – Social Science Statistics (01/03/2007)  
  returned for further information. The course needs better focus and examples of assignments and activities.

- MUH 3016 – Survey of Jazz (01/05/2007)  
  returned.

- EUH 2022 – The Medieval West (01/02/2007)  
  pending.

- WST 3225 – Women, Gender and Environment (12/17/2006)  
  pending (funding request needs to be discussed). This course requests funding amount of $73,000. Also the assignments listed in the proposal do not relate or match with the assignments listed in the syllabus.
The next meeting will be on Monday, March 5th, 2007, at 3:00 pm in SVC 2080. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

**Appendix (Acronyms used):**

- CT : Critical Thinking
- I : Inquiry - based Learning
- SP : Scientific Processes.
- QL : Quantitative Literacy
- IL : Information Literacy
- HHCP: Human Historical Context and processes
- HCD: Human and Cultural Diversity.
- GC : Global Context
- EP : Ethical Perspectives
- CIPE: Creative and Interpretive Processes and Experiences.