

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of March 5th, 2007

Present: David Frankel, Ed Kellner, Gladis Kersaint, Greg Paveza, Hunt Hawkins, Ilene Frank, Joan Morris, John Hodgson, Nancy White, Robert Potter (Chair), Scott Campbell, Suzanne Perry-Casler.

Absent: Jane Noll, John Ferron, Philip Levy, Sharon Geiger, Terry Sincich, William Murray.

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

The meeting was called to order at 3.02 p.m. in SVC 2080.

Minutes – The Minutes of February 19th, 2007 were approved by all with the suggested amendments.

Discussions –

Meeting with the Provost

The members of the General Education Council discussed the importance of undergraduate education and the priorities of the university. It was discussed that more and more of the high ranking universities are focusing on undergraduate education as that serves as the foundation of the university. The Council discussed ways to promote the quality of Gen Ed courses.

The Council acknowledged that at present the small sizes of Gordon rule classes are a positive sign for the university. However, the University needs high profile faculty to enrich these courses.

The funding concerning the "Writing Center" was discussed in the meeting. The members acknowledged that currently one of the biggest problems facing students nationwide is their poor writing skill. This important issue still needs to be addressed.

The Provost recommended that online courses require more support and emphasis from the upper level to improve their quality. It was suggested that having more GAs might help to address this issue.

The issues concerning the shortage of classrooms were also discussed in the GEC meeting. At present, it was reported that 30% of the classrooms are controlled centrally and 70% of the classrooms are controlled by the respective departments. This important issue still needs to be addressed.

The General Education Council proposed to form a subcommittee comprising of GEC members to discuss funding issues of courses.

Course Proposal Review Status –

Approved Courses

- **PHI 1103 – Critical Thinking (01/05/2007)---- Approved**
Critical thinking is the mind's faculty for catching its own (potential or actual) mistakes, and correcting its own misapprehensions. This course will hone this faculty by practicing the critical evaluation of real-world decisions. It was approved by all and no funding from the GEC was requested. **This is a Gordon Rule communication course.**
Core Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences **Dimensions:** CT, I, SP, EP, WLC1.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 19th, 2007, at 3:00 pm in SVC 2080. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Appendix (Acronyms used):

CT : Critical Thinking

I : Inquiry - based Learning

SP : Scientific Processes.

QL : Quantitative Literacy

IL : Information Literacy

WLC1: Written Language Competency 1

HHCP: Human Historical Context and processes

HCD: Human and Cultural Diversity.

GC : Global Context

EP : Ethical Perspectives

CIPE: Creative and Interpretive Processes and Experiences.