

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

Present: David Frankel, Ed Kellner, Greg Paveza, Hunt Hawkins, Ilene Frank, Jane Noll, Joan Morris, John Ferron, John Hodgson, Philip Levy, Robert Potter (Chair), Scott Campbell, Sharon Geiger, Suzanne Perry-Casler, Terry Sincich, William Murray.

Absent: Gladis Kersaint, Nancy White.

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

The meeting was called to order at 3.03 p.m. in SVC 2080.

Minutes – The Minutes of March 5th, 2007 were approved by all with the suggested amendments.

Discussions –

1. Announcement of SEC Approval of change of charge for GEC (next up faculty senate).
2. Report from AACU meeting (March 1-3, in Miami, FL):
The AACU meeting focused on the importance of liberal education and promotion of liberal education through out the university. Five members of the GEC attended the AAC&U Conference on “General Education and Assessment: Engaging Critical Questions, Fostering Critical learning. Dr. Flateby and Dr. Moore were among the conference planning committee. The keynote presentations focused on preparing the students for a global society, strengthening the quality of student learning, transparency and accountability in higher education, and promoting student access. Key challenges facing Liberal education were also addressed in the meeting. They are as follows:
 - i. There are differing views of what constitutes a liberal education
 - ii. Technology and speed are replacing reflection
 - iii. To many students, faculty, administrators, and public leaders, liberal education is misunderstood and serves little or no purpose.Thus, there is a need for the GEC to emphasize the importance of Liberal Education.
3. Gordon Rule Communication Rule:
The GEC suggested posting the Gordon Rule Communication guidelines in the website which can be viewed by the faculty members.
4. Funding of Courses:
The GEC discussed the issue of requested funding of the courses. The GEC suggested that the faculty proposing the courses with funding requests should be clear in stating the amount of funding being requested and the reasons for their funding. The proposers should segregate the types of funding into one-time costs, recurring costs in the form of TA/GA support and other recurring costs. The GEC discussed that there can be two rationales for course funding: one where the course needs to improve quality and the other where the course needs to accommodate more students (improve the quantity of the quality courses). The new course proposal website will have specific clauses to address these issues.

Course Proposal Review Status –

Approved Courses

- **GEO 2200 - Introduction to Physical Geography (01/05/2007) ---- Approved**
This course explores the principles of physical geography; maps; earth sun relationships; meteorological, hydrological, pedological, aeolian, and glacial processes, and resulting landforms. It was approved by all and the requested funding amount from the GEC was also approved.
Core Area: Physical Sciences **Dimensions:** CT, I, ENP, IRD.
- **GEO 2371 - Introduction to Earth Systems Science (01/05/2007) -----Approved with Pending Information**
This course provides a general overview of the earth, the inter-relationship between its functional systems, and a review of human impacts on the earth system at all scales. The course was approved but there were pending information. One was whether the instructor is requesting funding for TAs. It looked like they can have the course without funding and seemed they are requesting extra resources for additional students. Also another concern was that whether the dimension “Inquiry based learning” will enable the students to generate ideas. The course was partially approved till the funding issue is sorted.
Core Area: Physical Sciences **Dimensions:** CT, I, ENP, IRD.
- **THE 2252 – Great performances on Film (01/04/2007) ----- returned for funding information.**

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 2nd, 2007, at 3:00 pm in SVC 2080. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 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

ENP: Environmental Perspective

IRD: inter-relationships among Disciplines.

HHCP: Human Historical Context and processes

HCD: Human and Cultural Diversity.

GC : Global Context

EP : Ethical Perspectives

CIPE: Creative and Interpretive Processes and Experiences.