

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of February 4, 2008

Present: Sue Bartlett, Scott Campbell, Kenneth Caswell, John Ferron, Ilene Frank, David Frankel, Hunt Hawkins, Ed Kellner, Gladis Kersaint, Kathy Laframboise, Philip Levy, Joan Morris, Paul Reller, Kay Perrin, Jeffrey Ryan, Drew Smith, Cheryl Zambroski
Absent: Allison Cleveland, Sharon Geiger, Jane Noll (excused), Kay Perrin, Nancy White
Guests/: Cyndie Collins, Terri Fleteby, Charlene Herreid, Janet Moore
Ex-officio

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

The minutes were approved without changes.

Review Issues:

ANT 4401 was approved at the last General Education Council meeting pending minor revisions to the proposal. The most serious problem with obtaining final approval is the use of a 5-page summary paper in the course. The issue is not paper length but that a summary paper will not necessarily demonstrate analytical thinking. It was requested that Chair Kersaint contact the proposer and stress the idea of what a capstone course is supposed to be and that it implies a certain amount of weight. The course in general and the 5-page summary paper do not seem to go along with the spirit of a capstone course.

WST 4522 was also previously approved pending minor revisions. Council members questioned why an introductory course like this is at the 4000 level. It was noted that sometimes the State mandates that a certain course be numbered a certain way. The regional campuses often ask that a course receive a higher number so that the course can be offered at their campus. It was asked that this issue be noted.

AMS 3230 was previously approved pending minor revisions. More information about how the course meets new Gordon rule guidelines was needed. It was not clear that this information has been provided. Chair Kersaint will follow up.

The Geology Department has presented concerns about ENV 2001 (Global Warming). This course was proposed by the College of Engineering. This situation brought up the issue of concurrence, which was on the agenda to be discussed at today's meeting. What is to be done when department chairs disagree about which department should teach a course? This is usually taken care of at the college level if the departments are in the same college. This problem has not come up before because the Council has been approving old courses where these issues have been settled and ENV 2001 is a new course. There will be more overlap among courses in the future as the university encourages interdisciplinarity in course offerings. What process should this council use to deal with this issue? This issue is also in front of the UGC and they will communicate what they determine with this council. Meanwhile, what should be done about ENV 2001? Options for procedure were discussed. The Council doesn't want to ignore concerns of various departments, but also doesn't want people to fight. There was no final resolution of the issue and no vote was taken.

Chair Kersaint asked that persons who have questions about a course that is under review be sent to her, rather than to members of the review team.

Cyndie Collins from the St. Petersburg Campus addressed the group. St. Petersburg has a General Education Council. They will need to approve new and unique courses and existing course in the USF catalog that have not been proposed to this council. St. Petersburg wants to be in tandem with this

council. If they approve a new course they will bring it to this group for its consideration for approval as a courtesy. Some problems exist with this process and the regional campuses. The campus that first develops and proposes a course that is approved will set the learning outcomes and course content for the course. St. Petersburg is separately accredited and the faculty doesn't report to the Tampa campus any more. They can create their own programs and courses, such as Graphic Design which is not available at the Tampa Campus. St. Petersburg does not want to break away from the USF system and they still want students to be able to go back and forth between campuses. The St. Petersburg General Education Council has voted to mirror the Tampa Campus General Education so their material will go along with Tampa's materials. This will assure that St. Petersburg can teach courses as they are approved. They hope that the Tampa GEC will review their decisions. The question was raised whether the USF General Education Council has jurisdiction over the USF St. Petersburg Council. The issue about how the General Education Council that meets at the Tampa campus interacts with the St. Petersburg General Education Council was tabled.

Course Proposal Review Status :

Approved Courses

1. Without Funding

- **WST 3015 - Introduction to Women's Studies-----Approved.**
This course introduces the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies through a critical examination of the way gender, race, class and sexuality are socially constructed and demonstrates how activism is inherent in Women's Studies discourse.

Core Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Dimensions: CT, I, GC, HCD

2. With Funding Requests (\$\$\$\$)

- **EDF 3604 – Social Foundations of Education-----Approved.**
This course addresses the social, economic and political context within which schools function and the values which provide direction for our schools. This course was approved and meets the Gordon Rule Communication (Writing) Requirement.

Core Area: Exit Course

Dimensions: CT, I, HCD, IRD.

- **MAC2282 – Engineering Calculus II-----Approved.**
This course covers exponential, logarithm, and inverse trig functions, volumes of solids of revolution, integration techniques such as integration by parts and partial fractions, improper integrals, sequences and series, Taylor polynomials and applications. This course was approved and meets the Gordon Rule Computation Requirement.

Core Area: Mathematics

Dimensions: CT, I, SP, QL

Courses Pending Reviewer Action

Discussion of the problem of a single reviewer holding up the course approval process was discussed. It was moved and seconded that if after six weeks there are two completed reviews, then the course will be forwarded to the full Council for discussion. The motion was approved.

Old Business

Committee Reports

1. Marketing Sub-committee

Carried over to the next meeting. Dr. Sullins has held off sending his letter to the deans due to the budget situation.

2. Recertification Sub-committee

Sub-committee chair Nancy White sent a message reiterating that the sub-committee has gone as far as it can. There was agreement that a simple process for recertification is needed; that most people do not want to include student work as part of the recertification process; that if the process was voluntary, people would not cooperate; and that it would probably be best to appoint a person from each department to keep track of recertification.

3. Assessment Sub-committee

Carried over to the next meeting.

4. Funding Subcommittee

The course funding process is being delayed. There may be no money for course funding this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.