

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of September 17th, 2007

Present: Drew Smith, C. David Frankel, Ed Kellner, Gladis Kersaint, Hunt Hawkins, Ilene Frank, Jane Noll, John Ferron, John M. Belohlavek, Laura Rushak, Nancy White, Scott Campbell, Sharon Geiger, Sue Bartlett.

Ex-Officio/Guests: Bob Potter, Cheryl Zambroski, Cyndi Collins, Diane Williams, Janet Moore, Kathy Laframboise, Pat Maher, Terri Fleteby, Arka Bhattacharya.

Absent: Jeff Ryan (excused), Joan Morris, Paul Reller, Joe Moxley.

The meeting was called to order at 3.06 p.m. in SVC 2080. Dr. Kersaint presided.

Minutes: The minutes of Aug 20th, 2007 were approved.

Announcements:

1. Incentives for Course Submissions:

At this time, incentive funds are not available for course proposals due to budget constraints. The incentive funds for the previous academic year have been sent to the departments and the instructors were asked to check with their departments.

2. Membership:

The GEC need new members. Several have been nominated but have not yet been approved.

3. Courses with Funding Requests:

A memo was sent to department chairs, deans, and directors informing them of the November 2nd deadline for the course proposals with funding requests. The Council also announced that if the courses with funding requests are submitted after the deadline (November 2nd), then the courses can still be considered for review if there are sufficient funds. If the courses do not have any funding requests, then they can be submitted anytime of the year for review. The Council concluded that the goal for the new core curriculum is still Fall 2008.

4. Honors College:

The Honors College has a unique program and the Honors Deans and the students will give a presentation on the uniqueness of the courses and the ways they meet the standards and the criteria for the General Education courses.

Website Updates:

The new updated website of the GEC was presented in the Council meeting and the changes and updates were displayed and discussed. Among the updates, the most highlighted features were:

- Tracking course changes
- Assignment of new reviewers
- Notification of inactive members
- Courses assigned to reviewers will be highlighted.
- Display of information about GAs, total costs per semester.

Old Business

1. GEC Criteria:

The members approved the GEC criteria for course approval. The suggested changes made in the meeting and approved are:

- Learning Outcomes consistent with and mapped to Core Curriculum objectives
- Course proposal consistent with criteria for **Core Areas of Knowledge and Inquiry**
- Course proposal consistent with criteria for critical thinking, inquiry-based learning and two other dimensions (Exit courses require only one other dimension).
- Instructional strategies and examples appropriate to (or have the potential to) meet each intended outcome.
- Assessment strategies and examples of assessment demonstrate student achievement of intended learning and Core Curriculum dimension outcomes
- Appropriate coordination /professional development of instructional staff
- Appropriate departmental process for continuing review and maintenance of course integrity
- Requested resources appropriate to support the goals and missions of the Core Curriculum
- Gordon Rule communication course proposal consistent with new process writing requirements.
- Exit courses taught or monitored by a regular faculty member (exceptions require appropriate rationale).

2. Exit Courses:

The Council discussed the importance of the Exit courses. The idea of the Exit courses is more along the lines of capstone courses of the General Education core curriculum areas. Exit courses have been classified as writing intensive and capstone. The goal of the writing intensive Exit courses would be to improve student's writing abilities with a good feedback process. The students who are currently enrolled must meet the requirement as stipulated in the catalog for their year of entry. The Council discussed the impact and significance of the change of terminology of the Exit courses.

Assessment Sub-Committee

The sub-committee members will be composed of voting and non-voting members. The suggested non-voting members will be termed as Ex-Officio non voting members.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 1st, 2007, at **3:00 pm** in **SVC 2080**. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.