

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of October 15th, 2007**

Present: Drew Smith, C. David Frankel, Ed Kellner, Gladis Kersaint, Jeffrey Ryan, Hunt Hawkins, Ilene Frank, Jane Noll, John Ferron, Laura Rusnak, Nancy White, Paul Reller, Scott Campbell, Sue Bartlett.

Ex-Officio/ Guests: Cyndi Collins, Diane Williams, Janet Moore, Pat Maher, Rena Bird, Terri Flateby, Arka Bhattacharya.

Absent: Cheryl Zambroski (excused), Joan Morris, John M. Belohlavek, Kathy Laframboise, Phil Levy, Sharon Geiger.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m. in SVC 2080. Dr. Kersaint presided.

Minutes: The minutes of October 1st, 2007, were approved with amendments.

Discussion on Information regarding New Courses

A brief discussion was held about how information regarding the new courses is reaching the advisors and students, and how students can search these new courses in OASIS. The new courses are meeting old requirements and can be searched through OASIS.

Course Proposal Review Status:

Approved Courses

1. Without Funding

- **CLT 3123 Roman Literature in Translation -----Approved.**
This course surveys the major literary texts of the ancient Roman world, examined through both the chronological order of their production (from the 3rd century B.C.E to the 2nd century C.E) and their classification into various literary genres. This course was approved and meets the **Gordon Rule Communication and Computation** requirement.

Core Area: Exit Course

Dimensions: CT, I, WL1, EP.

- **HIS 3938 - Major Issues in History -----Approved.**
This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the historical relationship between (broadly) Asia and the West. It offers non-historians the opportunity to understand the dynamic between past and its interpretation. This course was approved.

Core Area: Exit Course

Dimensions: CT, I, HCD, HCP.

- **REL 3375 - Issues in Caribbean Religions -----Approved.**
The course examines major social, political, economic, and cultural issues in Caribbean religions mainly in Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, and Trinidad. Issues reflected in African Diaspora religions and encounters with Western and Eastern ones are studied. This course was approved.

Core Area: Exit Course

Dimensions: CT, I, HCD, EP.

- **WST 4320 - Politics and Issues in Women's Health -----Approved.**
This course will focus on celebrating women's health and wholeness: mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, social, economic, and understanding the potential negative effects of institutional and interpersonal oppression on health and wellness. This course was approved.

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

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

- **BSC 1020 - The Biology of Humans -----Content Approved only.**
This non-science-majors course deals with the principles and applications of human biology which covers scientific literacy, cell structure and function, anatomy and physiology, genetics, infectious diseases, and biotechnology. This course content was approved but the funding request needs to be reviewed by the funding committee before full approval can be given.

Core Area: Natural Sciences (Life Sciences) **Dimensions:** CT, I, SP, IL.

Review Issues

The Council members discussed issues related to the website course review process. Course review assignments are not visible to the reviewers. The members agreed to send their web related issues to Dr. Diane Williams. Also a list of interim guidelines for reviewing course proposals was distributed to the members that would help in overcoming some of the technical glitches they face while reviewing courses.

Committee Reports

1. Assessment Subcommittee

The members had a broad discussion about embedded assessment and non-embedded assessments. The members expressed frustration at the difficulty of assessing global issues in each course and suggested some common format for reviewing the dimensions to unify the assessment process.

2. Marketing/Promotions

The subcommittee completed the process of prioritizing the audiences for marketing purposes with the advisors at the top because they would be advising incoming freshmen, followed by students and their parents. Spring training schedules are to be offered to the advisors and presentations will be given to students and parents during summer. The members discussed the usage of tools and resources like PowerPoint presentations with voice-over audio and designing a user friendly website with "good" links and access available to other schools. The subcommittee also discussed the possibility of presenting to community colleges.

3. Recertification Process

It was announced that Recertification Process committee will be meeting on October 16th at 3:15 pm in SOC 129.

New Business

1. Assessment Presentation by Dr. Terry Flateby and David Frankel

The main excerpts of the presentation are as follows:

- i. Cognitive Level and Quality Writing Assessment Instrument (CLAQWA) is an online system for providing feedback and evaluating writing and thinking within a content area.
- ii. Presenters discussed the difference between assessment and grades, with grades having the purpose of evaluating students, and assessment focusing on improving student learning.
- iii. CLAQWA allows wide flexibility for defining the parameters for evaluating written assignments and uses a very friendly click and drag interface, preview functions and student review options.
- iv. Currently, documents must be uploaded in MS Word or a shareware version. It also offers flexibility to address specific dimensions and has a rating sheet which can be used for assigning grades or assessment purposes.
- v. Work is underway to add new features like having an interface to compare earlier and later versions of students' work, tracking whether students are referring to the examples provided to improve their work, tracking the time spent by students on the site and the frequency of student logging into the site. Customizing the rubric, by adding elements, will also be possible in the future.
- vi. Since it has been used extensively to assess writing in the General Education Curriculum, Dr. Flateby proposed CLAQWA as a viable method for assessing the GE dimensions by weighting the criteria and adding elements to the existing rubric,.
- vii. Student feedback is being sought to improve the performance of CLAQWA.
- viii. Dr. Flateby suggested making presentations on CLAQWA to the departments to show its importance and flexible assessment capabilities.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 5, 2007, at **3:00 pm** in **SVC 2080**. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.