

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of March 3, 2008

Present: Kenneth Caswell (CAS), Scott Campbell (COENG), John Ferron (COEDU), Ilene Frank (LIB), C. David Frankel (VPA), Hunt Hawkins (CAS), Ed Kellner (COENG), Gladis Kersaint (COEDU), Philip Levy (CAS), Joan Morris (NURS), Kay Perrin (COPH), Paul Reller (VPA), Drew Smith (LIB), Nancy White (CAS)

Absent: Sue Bartlett (COBA), Sharon Geiger (Honors), Kathy Laframboise (COEDU), Joan Morris (NURS), Jane Noll (CAS), Victor Peppard (CAS), Jeffery Ryan (CAS), Cheryl Zambroski (NUR)

Guests/: Cyndie Collins (USF St. Petersburg), Terri Flateby (Assessment), Charlene Herreid (UGS), Pat Maher (Student Affairs), Janet Moore (UGS), Laura Rusnak, Diane Williams (C21TE)

The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m.

As a quorum was not present, announcements were made and general discussion was held until a quorum was present.

Announcements:

Funding. Janet Moore reported that funding for the General Education courses is still being discussed. The funding subcommittee should meet and make their decisions on courses that have been approved since last fall. Courses that were previously certified and received funding will continue to receive it. The future is currently uncertain for new courses that might expect funding in fall 2008 and beyond. Chair Kersaint asked that Council members let colleagues know that final decisions have not been made yet about funding. Please do not speculate. Chair Kersaint will pass along information as soon as it is available.

Concurrence Policy. Janet Moore read a definition of concurrence to the committee that has been prepared by the Undergraduate Council.

Progress in Approving Courses. The Council is making good progress on courses that have been submitted. Chair Kersaint will contact course submitters who recently received a return letter and ask them to deal with any problems identified as soon as possible so that the courses might be approved and offered in the fall. We need to get the message out soon because summer will be here before we know it and faculty will not be around. Our last meeting is April 21. Chair Kersaint will send the letter out by April 1. It is important that faculty recognize that courses not approved as part of the Core Curriculum will be dropped from the list of possible course options for the first freshman class when the Core Curriculum is fully implemented. Many faculty don't understand there is urgency. Dr. Sullins will send a letter to let department chairs know of their current status related to Core Curriculum courses.

It was brought to the attention of the chair that 11 Council members were now present and that this constituted a quorum.

Review Issues:

Course Proposal Review Status:

Approved Courses

1. *Without Funding*

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

- **LIT 3155 – Twentieth-Century Literature-----**
Approved.

This course examines major literary works of the 20th Century written in English and explores ways authors have expressed the age and its great issues and conflicts, in order to gain an historical perspective that will help relate the present to the recent past. This course was approved and meets the Gordon Rule Writing Requirement.

Core Area: Exit Course

Dimensions: CT, I, WRLI

Courses Pending Reviewer Action

AFH 3100 and AMS 4804 need more work. Three new courses were submitted. They are CLA 3103, CLAS 3124 and MUH 2051.

The minutes were reviewed and approved as read.

Old Business

A discussion of recertification and how it relates to assessment was held. The Assessment and Recertification committees have met separately and members think we need an approach that can meet the criteria for both assessment and recertification. There is agreement that the Core Curriculum needs to be assessed at the Program Level and the Course Level. Course assessment may provide all of the information needed for recertification. However, the process to be used must be articulated—what information will be collected, how will it be collected, who will provide it, who will conduct the assessment, etc. The Council agreed that it might be possible ask faculty to provide assessment at the course level that can feed into the Program Level Assessment. The Council cautioned that the data collection process should not be too onerous. It was suggested that perhaps Blackboard can be used. As part of the assessment process, faculty will need to assess the extent to which the course met the goals established for the identified dimensions.

The question of how assessment is different from recertification arose again. Assessment provides information about the effectiveness of courses and the overall program. Recertification is used by the Council to make decisions about the inclusion of the courses as part of the Core Curriculum. However, the two processes need not be disconnected. Faculty can submit assessment data as part of the recertification process. The discussion was summarized in stressing that the goal of assessment is a feedback loop for continual improvement. Faculty must determine what worked and what did not work in the course and devise approaches for improving the course as needed. Recertification is meant to avoid the loss of rigor that happened over time with the old Liberal Arts curriculum. Assessment can be done using cycles. It was noted that departments need not collect assessment data for every semester that a course is taught but should devise a plan to collect data over time.

Committee Reports

1. Marketing Sub-committee

No report.

2. Recertification Sub-committee

See Old Business.

3. Assessment Sub-committee

See Old Business.

4. Funding Subcommittee

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

The next meeting of the General Education Council will be held March 17, 2008 at 3 pm in SVC 5012.