

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of January 4th, 2010

Present: Laura Rusnak, Drew Smith, Sonia Wohlmuth, Ed Kellner, Roger Boothroyd, Michael Bowen, Hunt Hawkins, Sharon Geiger, Denise Passmore, Pat Maher, Amy Thompson, Jane Noll, Jianping Qi, Sandra Reynolds

Absent: Ken Caswell, Barbara Shircliffe, Jeff Ryan, Paul Reller, Kathy Laframboise, John Ferron, Eleni Manolaraki, Cheryl Zambroski

Guests/Ex Officio: Janet Moore (UGS), Michael Kanning (UGS), Diane Williams (C21TE), Steve RiCharde (IEA), Felix Wao (IEA)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

The minutes of November 30th, 2009 were approved with revisions.

Announcements

- New Council members introduced and welcomed.

Old Business

- None

Approved Courses

- No new courses were approved at this meeting.

Review Issues

- ANT4241 – Anthropology of Religion seeks to move from Capstone to Writing Intensive. The council determined that reviewers will need to determine whether the course meets the Writing Intensive and Gordon Rule requirements. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- Kersaint instructed members to focus their review efforts on 3xxx level and below courses so that they can be included as soon as possible in the 36-hour core requirement.
- HUM4396 was referred to the C21stTE for help with requested revisions.
- Kersaint discussed with the council efforts to take action on “In Progress” course proposals that have been inactive for some time. Kersaint has contacted many of the proposers and removed some abandoned courses, and some others have been reactivated by the proposer. Kersaint requested that members contact those proposers in their departments to check on the status of these old proposals.

New Business

- a) Creative and Interpretive Processes Learning Outcome Change** – A proposal to change the Learning Outcome associated with the Creative and Interpretive Processes (CPE) dimension was considered. Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment representatives supported the change in order to bring the outcome more in line with the course content and available measures of the critical course assignments. Courses approved for the CPE dimension were not addressing a part of the original learning outcome, so that component needed to be dropped from the outcome. Steve RiCharde (IEA) noted that more changes such as this will be necessary in the future as they work to address the General Education related commitments contained in the QEP. Faculty

Assessment Coordinators will continue to work together with the IEA to guide changes to the Learning Outcomes. The change was approved as follows:

- I. **Original Outcome:** "Students will be able to explain or demonstrate how humanistic or artistic expressions create or critique culture"
- II. **Revised Outcome:** "Students will be able to explain or demonstrate artistic or human expression"

b) Refinement of the Core Curriculum – A number of concerns with the current structure of the Core Curriculum were discussed in order to encourage members to consider possible ways that the Curriculum can be refined in the next generation without interrupting current assessment efforts or impacting the SACS 5-year report.

- Many of the stated learning outcomes (see CPE revisions above) are not measurable. This is being discovered in the process of implementing Core Curriculum assessment measures.
- There currently are FKL objectives and Learning Outcomes which need to be reconciled.: 10 FKL Outcomes (<http://www.ugs.usf.edu/gec/fkl/FKLoutcomes.html>) and the more detailed objectives listed in the FKL document (<http://www.ugs.usf.edu/gec/fklcc.htm#objectives>). This is confusing and refinements in line with the FKL courses and assessments are needed.
- All of the Dimensions are not required of all students. This poses problems for comprehensive assessment. As a result of this discrepancy, assessment efforts have resulted in the use of an Assessment matrix that is substantially different from the original FKL matrix. What is needed is for all students to be exposed to each component and area of our GenEd program. Concerns were raised at the degree in which assessment efforts should influence the redesign of the curriculum.
- A number of suggestions to change the system of dimensions were discussed. Combining some of the dimensions (Inquiry-based Learning and Information Literacy, Global Context and Human and Cultural Diversity, Oral Language Skills and Written Language Skills) was discussed. Also, it was suggested that the dimensions could be divided into Primary and Secondary levels, with only Primary dimensions being required.
- In the end, the council needs to find an appropriate balance between refinements to the curriculum that are feasible given the current context and the ideal form a General Education curriculum would take.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.

The next meeting will be on February 1st, 2010.