

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of September 21st, 2009

Present: Kathy Laframboise, Paul Reller, Drew Smith, Sonia Wohlmuth, Ed Kellner, Roger Boothroyd, Michael Gibbons, Michael Bowen, Hunt Hawkins, Ken Caswell, Jeff Ryan, Victor Peppard, Eleni Manolaraki, Denise Passmore, Sharon Geiger, Brandy Lehman

Absent: Pat Maher, Cheryl Zambroski, Sandra Reynolds

Guests/Ex Officio: Janet Moore (UGS), Michael Kanning (UGS), Diane Williams (C21TE), Bob Sullins (UGS), Jane Noll, Barbara Shircliffe, Jana Martin, Steve RiCharde (IEA), Marvin Moore (IES), Felix Wao (IEA)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

The minutes of August 31st, 2009 were approved with minor changes.

New Business

- Steve RiCharde, Assistant VP for Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment (IEA), spoke to the council about General Education Assessment and SACS accreditation issues. He spoke of the need to balance the claims made in the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) with the available assessment opportunities and the SACS needs. An upcoming 5-year report to SACS is very important, but not as critical in detail as the 10-year report, which will deeply evaluate the implementation of the QEP. Regarding Gen Ed assessment, IEA is targeting their efforts in the parts of the Gen Ed matrix that are clearly assessable. Already existing rubrics will need to be calibrated and further refined as SACS is careful about what rubrics are acceptable. IEA has done a lot of work on the assessment of writing and these efforts show improvement. Bob Sullins, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, noted that due to membership turnover, many GEC members are not aware of the specific claims contained in the QEP. To remedy this, copies of the QEP and the SACS response will need to be shared with the GEC membership. There was some discussion about what the GEC members, in particular, can do to aid in the assessment efforts:
 - Note and question new course proposals that contain features that are not clearly assessable.
 - Work to solicit "Critical Assignments" from course proposers. These assignments provide a clear place in which to target the assessment efforts for each course.
 - In the future, consider a refinement of the Gen Ed curriculum. Such a refinement can be shown to SACS as resulting from our current "meta-evaluation" of our current assessment techniques. There was some discussion about the possible directions in which such a refinement may go.

Approved Courses

a) No Funding Request

1. LIN2002 – Language, Culture and Film	
Core Area – Humanities	Dimensions – CT, INQ, GLC, ETP
LIN 2002 offers a comprehensive introduction to the phenomena of human language, and the global and regional-specific connection between language and culture.	

b) Funding Request

2. AFA2000 – Introduction to the Black Experience	
Core Area – Social and Behavioral Sciences	Dimensions – CT, INQ, HCD, IRD
This course provides perspectives on the nature and significance of the "Black Experience" in Africa and the African Diaspora. It views these experiences as an integral part of human history.	

Review Issues

- After review, the request from the Sociology department to change the core area of **SYA4935** – Senior Seminar in Sociology from Social and Behavior Sciences to Exit/Capstone was approved.
- **ANT4195** was returned. The proposal needs work on the dimensions document before the course can be approved.
- The Art & Art History department requested that **ARH2051** and **ARH2052** be considered as fulfilling either the Fine Arts core area or the Humanities core area. Currently the course only fulfills the Fine Arts core area. The proposal materials will be sent to Daniel Belgrad, Chairperson of the Humanities Department, to determine whether or not this course is appropriate for the Humanities core area.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

The next meeting will be on October 5th, 2009.