

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of February 4, 2013

Present: Karla Davis-Salazar (chair), Manish Agrawal, Dan Belgrad, Annette Christy, William Cummings, Jeff Cunningham, Sandy Czerwinski, Mary Fournier, C. David Frankel, Marty Gould, Chung Seop Jeong, Denise Maguire, Mariam Manzur-Leiva, Alison Oberne, Audrey Powers, Sandy Reynolds, Scott Rimbey, Stephan Schindler

Absent: Audra Parker (excused), Susan Silver (excused), Gerald Woods (excused)

Guests/Ex Officio/

Resource Staff: Janet Moore (UGS), Kevin Yee (ATLE), Sue RiCharde (UGS), Arnie Mejias (Honors College), Bob Potter (CAS), Toni Criss (Economics)

Welcome and Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Karla Davis-Salazar announced the upcoming USF Student Success Conference, taking place on April 3, 2013, which will feature all four recipients of the 2012 U.S. Professor of the Year award.

The minutes of January 7, 2013, were approved with attendance adjustments.

Old Business

Statewide General Education Project Update

Karla Davis-Salazar thanked the council members for sending in their reviews of the state's initial, *recommended* courses for the mandated 15 general education credit hours. She summarized the feedback provided by faculty, which included the following recommendations, among others:

- Increase back to 36 hours of Gen Ed
- Alter the implementation timeline to Fall 2015
- Increase the number of courses allowed in all areas
- Separate Humanities and Fine Arts into two separate areas
- Move History from Social Sciences to Humanities
- Include Economics in the Social Sciences
- Reduce Gordon Rule writing requirement to two courses (ENC 1101/1102)
- Enhance and increase global learning in general education, including foreign languages
- Change 20th Century World History to 19th and 20th Century World History
- Separate Gordon Rule (both Computation and Communication) from general education

Questions were raised regarding the rationale of reducing the Gordon Rule writing requirement to two courses when there are well-known issues with students' ability to write well. Karla will speak with Dean Sullins about the council's concerns and questions.

Hold on Recertifications

Karla Davis-Salazar addressed the council on the fact that 19 FKL courses are 'on hold' to be recertified, 22 are up for recertification this spring, and 22 are up for recertification this coming fall. The council

agreed to keep the status quo a while longer, i.e., keep all recertifications on hold and allow those on hold to be recertified after 6 years rather than 5. These decisions are due to the statewide general education changes that remain in progress and undecided.

New Business

Discussion of State-mandated General Education Courses (Existing and Non-existing)

Karla Davis-Salazar began the discussion by asking the General Education Council to consider what they perceive as their role with regard to the state-mandated 15 credit hours, and what the implications are for USF.

- One reply was that the council's role is ensuring 'quality control.'
- Another response indicated there is nothing we can do, since what the state ultimately decides will be mandatory.
- Questions were raised regarding what mechanism will be put in place to ensure these mandated courses are taught effectively and that learning outcomes are being met.
- Several council members asked about funding for general education courses and how to go about obtaining it.
- Department chairs will decide how many sections of these courses will be needed, based on 'supply and demand.'
- The State 15 must meet USF's FKL requirements, because it is beneficial to our students.
- A council member asked whether these state-mandated courses will have to go through the usual New Course Proposal process. If it is a new course for USF, then yes. Substantive changes to any existing USF courses that are among the state-mandated ones will also require review. The GEC process could be abbreviated some to enable state-mandated courses a faster process due to the short timing required for these courses to be in place, as reflected in the current state timetable.
- The Chair mentioned that the rule in which all SUS institutions 'must accept and offer' the mandated courses *may* change.
- There was discussion of SCH (Student Credit Hours) vs. budget issues.
- The Provost is interested in lowering the number of general education courses that we offer. But the point was made that the faculty own the curriculum.
- The Provost wants USF general education curriculum to be distinctive.

Discussion of Remaining 15 General Education Hours at the Discretion of Individual Institutions

Discussion points:

- This is a good chance to create more interdisciplinary courses.
- The approved, state-mandated courses should be taken off the list of possibilities for USF's 15 to give those courses 'frozen out' of the first 15 an equal chance to be taken.
- Additional concern was expressed regarding SCH vs. budget issues.
- Interdisciplinary courses that are team-taught were recommended.
- Offer 'free-floating' electives
- A thematic approach was suggested, i.e., the 15 USF hours could be in a certain general education track (which would require approval from the General Education Council).
- Selected themes/tracks could be formed from existing general education courses.
- The FKL already has some 'purposeful pathways;' GEC could expand upon these.
- GEC must consider the logistics of multiple themes and create a viable process.

- There was discussion regarding “gatekeeper” courses currently included in FKL at USF.

Discussion of USF’s FKL courses with 4 Credits

Karla Davis-Salazar asked the council to review a list of USF FKL courses that currently grant 4 credit hours. The Provost wants these courses brought into alignment with the same course offerings across the state. If the same course at another SUS institution grants 3 hours, we should do the same. This best serves the needs of our students by helping them to avoid excess fees and/or excess credit hour penalties. This will be discussed further with Dean Sullins.

Recertifications Approved

None

New Courses Approved

FRE 3500 French Civilization (CPST: WLS, IRD) **Approved** *pending removal of WLS dimension*

There was discussion about whether this should be considered a Capstone course with the number 3500. Since there are many 3000-level courses that also became CPST courses, and since it would be a substantial process to switch all of these to the 4000-level, the council approved the course for general education with the number 3500. Also, since it was reported that the dimensions document did not contain adequate information pertaining to the written language dimension, it was suggested that it be removed. Only 3 dimensions are required for Capstone courses.

New Courses Tabled

IDH 5975 Honors Thesis (CLEX) *Not all reviews had been received as of meeting time.* **TABLED**

The Chair explained that due to Banner system requirements, the CLEX designation can only be used for a 6-credit course offered in one semester. Two-course sequences cannot be designated as CLEX. Instead one course must be designated as WRIN and the other as CPST. In cases where the same course number is taken twice over two semesters, a new course number is required in order to designate one as WRIN and one as CPST. This will need to be added to the language on CLEX on the GEC website.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

The next meeting of the GEC will occur on February 18, 2013, in SVC 5012 at 3:00 p.m.