

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of August 26, 2013

Present: Karla Davis-Salazar (chair), Maryellen Allen, Adonis Amparo, Dan Belgrad, Annette Christy, C. David Frankel, Hunt Hawkins, Chung Seop Jeong, Mariam Manzur-Leiva, David Payne, Scott Rimbey, Stephan Schindler, Gerald Woods

Absent: Sandy Czerwinski, Pat Jones, Thomas Williams (for Michael DeJonge)

Guests/Ex Officio/

Resource Staff: Janet Moore (UGS), Sue RiCharde (UGS)

1. Welcome and Announcements
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.
 - b. The General Education Council voted to retain Karla Davis-Salazar as chair.
 - c. The chair announced that there are many vacancies currently on the GEC. She requested that members talk with their colleagues about becoming members of the council (CAS is currently fully represented).
 - d. Introductions were made for the new members.
 - e. Adonis Amparo spoke of the new Digital Learning Center at the USF Tampa Library.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the April 29, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.
3. Old Business
 - a. Statewide General Education Project Update
 - i. Chair Davis-Salazar advised the group that the new implementation date for the statewide changes is now Fall of 2015.
 - ii. The first 15 general education hours in 5 core areas will still be mandated by the state. The remaining 21 hours will be up to USF. The total number of general education hours in Florida will remain at 36, rather than be reduced to 30.
 - iii. Karla Davis-Salazar discussed the results of the May 16, 2013 General Education Steering Committee meeting. She will send the list of final competency and core course recommendations in the 5 main areas (Communications, Humanities, Mathematics, Natural Science, and Social Science) to the General Education Council.
 - iv. There was discussion regarding the fact that 6 courses are now allowed in the Humanities and Social Science areas within the state-mandated first 15 Gen Ed hours.
 - v. For Mathematics and Natural Sciences, new language was added: "Any student who successfully completes a natural science [or mathematics] course for which one of the general education core course options in natural science is an immediate prerequisite shall be considered to have completed the natural science core." This opens up many more possibilities for courses in those areas within the state-mandated 15 credit hours.
 - vi. The chair fielded questions regarding the remaining 21 Gen Ed hours, which are up to USF to determine. The QEP could play a role in shaping those 21 hours.
 - vii. There was discussion regarding the importance of including departments not included in the first 15 hours within the remaining 21 hours.

4. New Business

- a. Janet Moore reported on the Common Reading Experience that began in Summer 2013 at all orientation sessions, and which will continue throughout this academic year. This year's book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Dr. Moore explained how this book will be integrated into ENC 1101/ENC 1102 classes, University Experience classes, and many other events and discussions on campus. This will include a "Henrietta Lacks Day" on September 26, 2013. The Library has created a website: www.lib.usf.edu/common-read. The theme of the Common Reading Experience program is "One Book-Global Connections."
- b. Karla Davis-Salazar announced that the QEP Steering Committee voted that the 2015 QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) topic will be "The Global Citizens Project." This decision was based on the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, assessment data, and USF's previous QEP (General Education), per SACS requirements. The QEP will have a broad-based impact on the USF community. The council's input will be very valuable in determining best practices in helping students gain the relevant knowledge and skills.
- c. Karla Davis-Salazar explained to the new General Education Council members the processes involved in reviewing new Gen Ed course proposals and Gen Ed course recertifications. She suggested that returning council members pair up with new members to assist in their transition. She encouraged new members to study the General Education Council website, located within Undergraduate Studies' homepage (the Foundations of Knowledge and Learning (FKL) information in particular). Undergraduate Studies is in the process of upgrading and streamlining both the New Course Proposal and the Recertification sites. The chair also explained that three reviewers are assigned to each new course or recertification, and that they remain anonymous to the proposers. Conversations are between the chair and the proposers or the chair and the reviewers. There was discussion/concern regarding the numerous dimensions, and the difficulty in assessing that many. Karla Davis-Salazar will send the group a spreadsheet of all FKL-approved Gen Ed courses, sorted by core area and also by dimension, for their review and analysis.

5. Recertifications

- a. The General Education Council voted to begin recertifying all Gen Ed courses again immediately (all but CPST/WRINs had previously been on hold). The chair will report back to the council on the number of recertifications this will involve. Even though changes in the system are coming, the recertifications are piling up and the group agreed it was necessary to begin again.
 - i. Reviewers were assigned for the following recertifications:
 1. **EUH 2022 The Medieval West (CAHU: HCD, HHCP)**
 2. **LAE 4414 Teaching Literature in the Elementary School, K-6 (WRIN: WLS, GLC)**

6. New Course Proposals

- a. Reviewers were assigned for the following new course proposals:
 - i. **EDE 4940 Internship: Elementary Education (CLEX: WLS)**
 - ii. **GET 4528 (was 4332) German Directors in Hollywood (CPST: HHCP)**
 - iii. **REL 4213 (was 4604) Early Jewish Literature (CPST: CPE)**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next meeting of the GEC is scheduled for September 16, 2013.