

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes of October 21, 2013

Present: Karla Davis-Salazar (chair), Maryellen Allen, Adonis Amparo, Ross Andel, Dan Belgrad, Sandy Czerwinski, C. David Frankel, Hunt Hawkins, Chung Seop Jeong, Pat Jones, Mariam Manzur-Leiva, David Payne, Scott Rimbey, Stephan Schindler, Thomas Williams (for Michael DeJonge), Gerald Woods

Absent: Annette Christy (excused)

Guests/Ex Officio/

Resource Staff: Arnie Mejias (Honors College), Janet Moore (UGS), Sue RiCharde (UGS), Kevin Yee (ATLE)

1. Welcome and Announcements --The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the October 7, 2013 meeting were approved as written.
3. Old Business
 - a. QEP Updates
 - i. Karla Davis-Salazar announced that the QEP website as well as the campus-wide QEP survey is now up and running. <http://www.usf.edu/qep/>. She noted some of the features of the new site, including a link under "Contact Us" for requesting QEP presentations. The QEP website will evolve and grow as the Global Citizens Project progresses toward the 2015 reaffirmation. Chair Davis-Salazar urged the council members to spread the word about both the website and the survey to their colleagues. She also noted that the survey can be taken more than once, which will enable members of the community to submit additional QEP ideas as they arise.
 - b. State-mandated Changes
 - i. USF Deans were recently asked to solicit feedback on the new, state-mandated general education courses. Dean Bob Sullins will advise the Provost that none was received (indicating they were in agreement). The Provost will send the results to the state Steering Committee on November 1.
4. New Business
 - a. WRIN/WLS Discussion
 - i. At the October 7 meeting, a motion was made and seconded – but tabled - that would *prevent the use of WLS as the third dimension for WRIN courses*. Today, **the General Education Council voted unanimously AGAINST this motion, i.e., WRIN courses CAN use WLS as the third dimension.** Discussion points below:
 - Some expressed concern over possible redundancy issues. Is quality of writing implicit within WRIN? There was a suggestion to have ALL WRINs have the WLS dimension, to ensure quality writing, and not just quantity.
 - WRIN emphasizes process and quantity of writing. WLS emphasizes more quality of writing, especially expository and scholarly writing styles.

- Proposers should decide the best dimension for their courses, rather than GEC imposing yet another regulation. If they select WLS, the GEC will review it as a separate dimension.
- Some were in favor of “anything” with WLS, as our students badly need improvement in this area.
- How do we ensure that the instructor will pay attention to this WLS process? Teaching writing skills is not the same as recognizing writing quality. GEC can use the course recertification process to look more closely at WRIN/WLS.
- No other university in the SUS has a university-wide CPST requirement for 6 hours such as USF’s. We should avoid adding hours to our students’ requirements when there is a big push to get them through to graduation more quickly.
- There was discussion regarding the original formation of CPST/WRIN courses to ensure that transfer students took two FKL core curriculum courses in the upper level emphasizing FKL dimensions as part of their USF degree. The CPST/WRIN courses also allow the student to experience academics outside of their discipline.
- There was a suggestion to rewrite the WLS dimension description. GEC could look at the 20 WRIN courses with WLS as their third dimension to provide guidance in rewriting the WLS description.
- There was a suggestion to use writing rubrics to assess process writing, when reviewing WRIN/WLS courses for recertification. One rubric to consider for such could be MyReviewer, developed and working successfully for the FYC unit.

5. Recertifications

a. Under review (new)

- ANT 4241 Anthropology of Religion (WRIN: HCD, ETP) **TABLED**
- ANT 4401 Exploring Cross-Cultural Diversity (CPST: HCD, GLC) **APPROVED (ONE OPPOSED) pending changes to syllabi regarding FKL statements and learning outcomes**
- EVT 4651 Equity in Schools and the Workplace (CPST: ETP) **TO BE RETURNED**
- GEB 4890 Strategic Management and Decision Making (CPST: ETP, IRD) **TO BE RETURNED**
- HIS 3938 Major Issues in History (CPST: HHCP, HCD) **TO BE RETURNED**
- LIT 3155 Twentieth-Century Literature (WRIN: WLS) **TABLED**
- LIT 3374 The Bible as Literature (WRIN: WLS) **TABLED**
- LIT 3451 Literature and the Occult (WRIN: WLS) **TABLED**

6. New Course Proposals

a. Under Review (new)

- PSY 4974 Honors Seminar in Psychology (Second Semester) (WRIN: SCP) **APPROVED**

b. Under Review (resubmit)

- QMB 3150 Business Honors Advanced Statistics (CAQR: SCP, QUL) **TABLED**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m. The next GEC meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2013.