

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**  
**General Education Council**  
**Minutes for October 21, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Marie Bourgeois, Chair (PH), Joanna Burchfield, Vice-Chair (EN), John Abresch (LIB), Karen Atwood (AC), Lauren Braunstein (EU), Shane Combs (US), Michael Cross (HC), Madeline Domino (BU), Jane Govoni (EU), Morgan Gresham (AC), Jennefer Karnege (EU), Daniel Marlin (BU), Jay Michaels (AC), Elizabeth Miller (AC), Jason Nethercut (AC), Gauri Pradhan (AC), Richard Smith (AC), Natasha Zurcher (NR)

**ABSENT:** Sara Callahan (AC), Sara E. Green (AC), Manisha Joshi (BC), Emily Mann (LIB), Lindsay Peterson (CBCS), Walter Silva Sotillo (EN)

**GUESTS/EX-OFFICIO:** Chantale Begin (AC), Andrew Berish (AC), Scott Besley (BU), Kyna Betancourt (UGS), Tara Centeno (UAA), Maureen “Mo” Chiodini-Rinaldo (EU), Allison Cleveland-Roberts (AC), Allison Crume (UGS), Mazhab “Mazi” Ferguson (OCE&P), Colin Forbes (UGS), Kim Golombisky (AC), Rebecca Gibbons (ODS), Lorene Hall-Jennings (UAA), Jessica Harris (ODS), Timothy Henkel (UAA), Michelle Hughes Miller (AC), Navita James (AC), Lisa Landis (CBCS), Stephen Lappano (AC), Elena Lesley (AC), Jennifer Lister (CBCS), Prasant Mohapatra (UAA), Ali Mrani Alaoui (UGS), Adriana Novoa (AC), Kelly Pearson (AC), David Ponton III (AC), Catherine Rogers (BC), Tangela Serls (AC), Erin Sutliff (AC), Susan Toler (AC), Robyn Tornay (RO), Jennifer VanDeWoestyne (UVPSS), Tanya Vomacka (UAA), Milton Wendland (AC)

**Meeting Commenced – 3:00 p.m.**

**1. Welcome and Announcements**

Marie welcomed the council members to another General Education Council.

**2. Approval of August 19, 2024 General Education Council Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were approved as is (no revisions).

**3. Informational Items**

**1. General Education at USF – Provost Mohapatra**

The Provost reminded the council of the changes towards General Education (Gen Ed) per SB 266 and BOG regulation 8.005, which outlines a new annual review and approval process for Gen Ed courses. These changes were also recounted to the council in Spring 2024. For this academic year, a selection of courses have been flagged by the state as being incompatible with the new regulations, and these courses, along with a selection of others, were submitted by the Articulation Coordinating Committee to the state for review. There have not yet been any approvals or denials by the state, and the submitted list is still in a state of flux by the university. The list has not been finalized.

One of the most explicit changes to the state guidelines is that any major-specific courses that require significant prerequisite knowledge (such as capstones and

internships) are not permitted to be classified as gen eds. Special Topics are also not permitted due to their dynamic nature. When asked if there would be enough Gen Ed courses to meet the size of the student body, the answer was not exacting. The preliminary list did create a significant drop in Gen Eds, but the respective leadership and faculty teams have been working with the state to ensure that there are enough Gen Ed courses and/or sections to meet demand.

The Provost charged the General Education Council to work together and reimagine USF's general education program to align with state requirements while providing the best learning experience for students. The preliminary list of courses was disseminated to the council members after the meeting, and further updates are to be relayed to the college deans and department chairs after the Faculty Senate meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The General Education Council Chair has created a subcommittee to work on the changes in Gen Ed courses, including alterations to the overall assessment process. This team plans to meet weekly and report their progress during regular General Education Council meetings.

**Meeting Concluded – 4:23 p.m.**