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5-9-2012

## General Education Committee Annual Report : 2011-2012

General Education Committee

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**USFSP FACULTY SENATE  
STANDING COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Name of Council/Committee: General Education Committee

Chair: Kathy Arthur

Year: Spring 2012 (1 year term)

Committee/Council Members

Year Service Term ends: (2 year terms)

<u>Erika Asano</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
<u>Maria Luisa Corton (Secretary)</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
<u>Morgan Gresham</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>
<u>Thomas Hallock</u>	<u>Spring 2013 (sabbatical F2012)</u>
<u>Hugh LaFollette</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
<u>Deanna Michael</u>	<u>Spring 2013 (sabbatical F2012)</u>
<u>Phillip McCollam</u>	<u>Spring 2013 (leaving USFSP)</u>
<u>Adrian O'Connor</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
<u>Patricia Pettijohn</u>	<u>Spring 2012 (replacement Gary Austin)</u>
<u>Deby Cassill</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>
<u>George Roy</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>
<u>J. E. Gonzalez (Ex-officio)</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>

Dates of Meetings:

Minutes Submitted    Yes    No

October 26, 2011	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
November 30, 2011	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
December 7, 2011	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
January 25, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
February 8, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
February 29 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
March 21, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
March 28, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
April 4, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
April 11, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
April 13, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>
May 2, 2012	<u>  X  </u>	<u>    </u>

## Summary of Actions, Works in Progress, Concerns for next Year

**Faculty Senate Charge:** The GE committee constructed a schedule for addressing the Senate Charges. Spring 2012 address Senate Charge 1: reviewing and revising the philosophy of the GE requirements at USFSP, Senate Charge 2: evaluate existing list of SL, organize GE day. Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 address Senate Charge 3: examining the suitability of GE courses and the rationale for how these courses support the learning outcomes. Fall 2013 address Senate Charge 4 making suggestions to improve GE assessment. At the end of the 2012 semester, we revised this schedule and will continue to work on Senate Charge 1 and 2 in Fall 2012.

**Review:** We began 2012 by reviewing the current state of USFSP General Education and each committee member was provided with a folder with the following documents that we reviewed: current GE philosophy, subject areas and SLOs, location of GE materials on USFSP websites, State University System of Florida GE regulations, USF System GE regulations, current GE application form, and charge from the Faculty Senate. Committee is aware of new legislation HB 7135 that passed the Florida House and Senate and will impact general education curriculum in the state.

**Communication:** Kathy and Ernie created a space on Q drive for all committee members as a way to share information. We agreed Kathy would share GE minutes with Deans, Chairs, and faculty Senate. We are informed that Ernie is working on a new system, sharepoint, as a place to share digital information.

**GE website:** We need to update and organize GE material on USFSP website, and new webmaster Michael Fougères said that this could begin in the summer 2012. Rick Smith of Faculty senate posted agendas and minutes on new D space.

**Course Evaluations:** The committee was introduced to the revised GE application form from 2010-2011, and discussed the need to develop procedures. We decided that for the next couple of years while we are reassessing USFSP General Education as per the Faculty Senate Charge that we will strongly encourage faculty to not submit new courses or course changes and circulate this information to faculty and deans. We approved MAC1105L as 0 credit course which is NOT a GE course, but is an addition to Gen Ed course MAC 1105. In reviewing this case, the committee emphasizes that courses need to be proposed and approved through department chairs prior to submission.

**Data Collection:** We decided that we need the last two years of assessment data on the Q drive under institutional effectiveness with a folder in each subject area for each year. These folders are now present. We also need summary tables for each semester to include SLOs, subSLOS, course number and name, outcome assignment, number met, number that did not meet. These summary tables are not on the Q drive. Ernie is to organize this

information. Ernie stated that we are still missing assessment data from faculty from the last two years.

**Philosophy:** The philosophy went through several revisions prior to the creation of the version introduced to the faculty on April 13. Hugh LaFollette, Kathy Arthur, Deby Cassill, Adrian O'Connor, and Tom Hallock all worked on various written versions reflecting discussions in committee meetings.

**Guest Lecture:** Hugh LaFollette arranged for Geoffrey Sayre-McCord to visit USFSP and give a lecture on General Education and Dr. Sayre-McCord also met with the GE committee. Dr. Sayre-McCord encouraged us to create a framework emphasizing a program that reflected our strengths and who we are as an institution.

**GE Day:** We changed Spring 2012 Assessment day to General Education day. We decided that the meeting should be organized and presented by the GE committee with introductions by the Faculty Senate Chair Chris Davis and GE committee Chair Kathy Arthur. We held a two hour meeting on April 13 that encouraged faculty to discuss across disciplines the following general education skills: critical thinking, communication, and quantitative literacy. Initially, we also had diversity and natural science/scientific method as areas of discussion, but decided that these could be subsumed under critical thinking. GE committee members were at each of the 8 table taking notes to ensure information would get back to the committee. The main points from each table was presented at the end of the meeting to all in attendance. The goal of the meeting was to generate faculty discussion across disciplines and to use discussion points in revisions of the philosophy and creating draft of the SLO all in an effort to strengthen USFSP general education curriculum. During our last meeting of the semester, we will review these points and discuss how to move forward with faculty input in the fall.

**Concerns for next year:** Out last meeting of the year May, 2, 2012, we will hold chair elections and encourage faculty to continue to serve on the committee even if their terms are up so that we have consistency through the process of change. Our direction next year may be impacted by new state legislation. However, even if the legislation passes our GE efforts this last year and faculty discussions will have proven fruitful, as the legislation will not impact our faculty's control over the philosophy and student learning outcomes. We will proceed to work on the Philosophy and move into discussions of SLO and subject areas.