



USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Committee: General Education: Meetings USF St. Petersburg Faculty Senate Committee: General Education

10-7-2008

General Education Committee Meeting : 2008 : 10 : 07

General Education Committee

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USFSP General Education Committee
Meeting Minutes: 10/7/2008

Present: Kathy Carvalho-Knighton, Dawn Cecil, Cyndie Collins, John Gum, Jim Krest, Tina Neville, Andy Reeves

Guests: Norine Noonan, Frank Biafora

Outgoing chair Cyndie Collins called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Chairperson for 2008/09

Cyndie announced that Jay Sokolovsky as agreed to join the General Education Committee as Chair for the 2008/2009 academic year. Jay will be filling Lisa Starks slot on the committee. Lisa has asked to step off of the committee because of other major administrative and service commitments this year.

John Gum agreed to act as Vice Chair and Tina Neville agreed to be secretary.

Meeting schedule for the fall semester

Jay sent word via Cyndie that he is unable to meet on Wednesday afternoons this semester and asked if the meetings could be changed to Mondays at 3:00 pm. Although some members commented that they might have to arrive a bit late or leave early, generally that time will work and it was agreed that future meetings will be on Monday afternoon.

Review of existing upper level GE courses

Cyndie asked for discussion and a vote on the revised draft document regarding 3000 and 4000 level courses that are included in the GE list. The document was approved as written and Cyndie will send it on to the Institutional Effectiveness Committee.

Discussion with RVCAA Norine Noonan

Dr. Noonan began by confirming that USFSP will not be adopting the new Tampa GE plan but will be retaining our current General Education core requirements. This is necessary for assessment purposes. The process is already underway on the articulation agreement ensuring that USF students will not be impacted if they choose to move from one campus to another.

Dr Noonan then discussed the size of the current GE curriculum. We have more than 100 courses that are currently listed for GE. Most institutions have approximately 50 courses designated for GE. In addition to spreading out our faculty resources, listing too many GE classes provides a huge assessment burden.

She empowered the committee to make the tough decisions needed to focus and strengthen our GE curriculum as a strong core leads to a strong overall education. Finally, Dr. Noonan challenged the GE Committee to look carefully at all of the courses that are listed for GE and consider the following:

1. Does the course satisfy more than one of the student learning outcomes? If so, are multiple outcomes really being accomplished? Faculty should be questioned on how they are meeting multiple objectives.
2. Can the GE offerings be reduced? Although courses may stay on the overall approval list as part of the articulation process with Tampa, what courses should we stop offering on this campus? Data on course offerings and enrollments for the past seven semesters has been distributed to the members of the committee.
3. When asked to approve a new GE course, consider what the addition will mean in terms of assessment. If a new course is approved it must include a clear link to one of the student learning outcomes for GE.

Long-term goals

In light of the comments made by Dr. Noonan, Andy Reeves asked the committee to consider establishing the following long-term goals for GE:

1. Consider cutting the overall number of student learning outcomes listed for GE
2. Attempt to reduce overall GE offerings to 50-60 courses.

The committee agreed that, once the SACS concerns had been properly addressed we would work towards these goals.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. and is scheduled to meet next on October 13th at 3:00 in CAS conference room.