



4-4-2012

General Education Committee Meeting : 2012 : 04 : 04

General Education Committee

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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – Wednesday *April 4, 2012* – 1pm at Harbor Hall

Committee Members:

1. Kathy Arthur, Chair
 2. Erika Asano
 3. Deby Cassil
 4. Maria Luisa Corton
 5. Morgan Gresham (absent)
 6. Thomas Hallock
 7. Hugh LaFollette
 8. Deanna Michael
 9. Phillip McCollam (absent)
 10. Adrian O'Connor
 11. Patricia Pettijohn (absent)
 12. George Roy
 13. J. E. Gonzalez (Ernie)
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1. Minutes from March 21, 2012 Approved
2. Minutes from March 28, 2012 Approved
3. GE Day details:
 - a. time 10-12 am with AV setup confirmed
 - b. food- continental breakfast Grind confirmed
 - c. Table Discussion points- Emails about civic engagement have been received by Kathy; we agreed on not changing the setup for discussion points.
 - d. We talked about division of tables between disciplines based on RSVP; the group agreed on a sign in sheet – some concern on bottle neck at start was mentioned;
 - e. The agenda, philosophy, charge with assignment sheet will be on package hand out
 - f. List of faculty for each committee member who is at their table
 - g. Hugh reported RSVP by 28 faculty so far.
 - g. Committee members **WILL ENCOURAGE FACULTY to Attend** – making it a personal point!!! Maria Luisa will make announcement at COB meeting on Friday April 6.
 - h. There was some mentioning of flaggers to be put on faculty mail box but there was not definite decision on this.
4. Philosophy: we revised the draft of Philosophy. Most of the discussion was about how to begin the document, defining a liberal education and its place in the document. The group agreed (and vote) on a start with Liberal Education and then the specifics of GE at USFSP. Work is almost done – last paragraph will be revised in the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG GENERAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

The faculty of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg commits itself to helping our students achieve the broad liberal arts education they deserve and need. General education is a cornerstone of academic life at University of South Florida St. Petersburg and is the foundation upon which our commitment to provide a Liberal Arts education rests.

A liberal arts education provides students with broad knowledge of major areas of human learning, it instills and refines reading, understanding, reasoning, and communication skills, and develops and strengthens essential intellectual virtues: curiosity, intellectual honesty, a healthy skepticism, the imagination to understand and fairly consider the perspectives of others, and the willingness and ability to be critical of one's own ideas and arguments. Liberal arts give students the fundamentals they need for success not only in the classroom, but also in the swiftly evolving economy, society, and polity to which they will contribute before and after graduation. Liberal arts allows them to appreciate the cultural and biological diversity of an increasingly inter-connected world, will give them the critical thinking skills to take up the issues that shape our global economy, environment, and lives, and to do so as informed, and responsible citizens.

General Education courses – covering mathematics, social sciences, humanities, communication, and the natural sciences – lay the groundwork for a quality university education. Students explore a range of subjects, many outside their anticipated field or major, and these courses encourage the development of a habit of inquiry that is at once flexible, disciplined, and able to grasp many perspectives; that is scholarly, yet grounded in the belief that the world of ideas extends beyond the classroom walls. Students' work in General Education courses will give them the basis for the pursuit of a liberal arts education and prepares them to flourish in their collegiate and post-collegiate lives. General Education courses endow students with foundational knowledge and skills in preparation for the coursework in their majors and in other more specialized pursuits. Those more specialized courses build upon, reinforce, and expand that knowledge, boost those skills, and strengthen students' intellectual integrity.

The USFSP General Education curriculum gives students a critically important body of knowledge as well as shared educational experiences, thereby fostering a sense of shared purpose and identity in a unique urban setting among current USFSP students as well as among our alumni and alumnae. In these ways, the USFSP General Education program prepares students to continue their intellectual, cultural, and personal development well beyond their years at college, and contributes to their becoming responsible citizens in the broadest sense of the term. It also enriches students' lives by improving their understanding of the world, the diversity of perspectives and lifestyles shaping that world, and their place within their communities—local, national, and global.