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

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4-11-2012

## General Education Committee Meeting : 2012 : 04 : 11

General Education Committee

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## GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Agenda – Wednesday **April 11, 2012** – 1pm at Harbor Hall

**Committee Members:**

1. Kathy Arthur, Chair
  2. Erika Asano
  3. Maria Luisa Corton (absent with excuse)
  4. Morgan Gresham
  5. Thomas Hallock
  6. Hugh LaFollette
  7. Deanna Michael
  8. Phillip McCollam (absent)
  9. Adrian O'Connor
  10. Patricia Pettijohn
  11. Deby Cassil (absent with excuse)
  12. George Roy (absent with excuse)
  13. J. E. Gonzalez (Ernie)
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1. Minutes from April 4, 2012 approved
  2. GE Day
    - Distributed Flyers Reminders for each College & Library
    - Introductions by Chris Davis
    - Tables and Committee Assignments- Hugh and Maria
    - Powerpoint and Revised agenda for April 13, remove Review of GE material
    - Handouts- when individuals arrive they will check in and we will provide them with their table number and an agenda for the day. Make space on Agenda for comments on philosophy and table discussion
    - Agreed in the Fall we will continue to work on Philosophy to incorporate faculty ideas from meeting on April 13
  4. Philosophy- reviewed second part of draft from last meeting and further suggestions and came to agreement on philosophy to present to faculty on April 13.
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## General Education Committee 2012 Philosophy

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 the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and is the foundation upon which our commitment to provide a quality 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, a healthy skepticism, intellectual honesty, the imagination to understand and fairly consider the perspectives of others, and the willingness and ability to constructively evaluate of one's own ideas and arguments. A liberal arts education allows students to appreciate the cultural and biological diversity of an increasingly inter-connected world and provides them with critical thinking skills to take up the issues that shape our global economy, environment, and lives. The General Education curriculum at USFSP is founded upon the principles of a liberal arts education.

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 purpose and identity among current USFSP students as well as among our graduates. It 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. The USFSP General Education program also 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.