

1-27-2012

## General Education Committee Meeting : 2012 : 01 : 27 : Presentation to the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty

General Education Committee

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## Address to the CAS Faculty Meeting Jan 27: General Education Committee

1. **Indigenous Communities**—subjected to National and State Policies
2. **GE Report**—Wrong Language—SACS REAFFIRMATION DOCUMENT on IR Webpage--- Comprehensive Standards---

- a. It outlines our GE Tradition and the results of our Tribute, i.e. our assessment.
- b. The Nation and State have accepted our report and now we have a 5 year respite.

**Faculty Senate has charged** the GE committee with 4 items. The first is reviewing the Philosophy of the GE requirements. Overall their four items suggest that .

1. reviewing the philosophy of the General Education requirements at USFSP
  2. evaluating the existing list of student learning outcomes (SLO);
  3. examining the suitability of GE courses and the rationale for how these courses support the learning outcomes;
  4. making suggestions to improve GE assessment.
5. **first task is to reevaluate our mission our goals** our vision of our self to the public and what we want to achieve this is very exciting.
  6. As I tell my students a University education is a **rites of passage** and there are three stages to a rites of passage—separation, transition/liminal phase, and final incorporation.
    - a. **Separation phase-** leaving behind what they were a high school student, a job they did not like and they are open and eager with possibilities
    - b. **Transitional stage** is where they perform the tasks, and most importantly are guided by a group of elders, who help them form and transition into their next stage of life. We are the elder community, the faculty the teachers. It is a serious and incredible responsibility and we need to be UNITED in what we want or our iniatitees are going to be confused and .
    - c. Incorporation-We need to decide what we want to give rebirth to, do we want chiefs, ritual-leaders, mothers, fathers, exactly what do we want. This will take a lot of thought and a lot clarity and a lot of communication.
  7. **Time:** We are in the mist of changing our tradition and change takes time and thought, we don't want to rush it, but we don't want to be colonized either. I think this process of revevaluating GE will take about 2 years. And I will outline below what I forsee.
  8. **First we need leadership.** And like an indigous society we have our Chief (Dean), chiefs usually strive to be chiefs, but the rest of the community has to pushed or pulled into service. We are caught, reluctant but ultimately willing to serve. We have our Elders (Chairs),

and then we have our more temporary leaders, who are usually ritual leaders and instigators of change.

- i. So let me introduce those that have been caught to represent the GE committee. I appreciate everyone's cooperation in building this committee, as it is one of most important on campus that affects our mission, teaching, and our student body.

Kathy Arthur, Chair  
Erika Asano  
Maria Luisa Corton, Business  
Morgan Gresham,  
Thomas Hallock,  
Phil McCollam  
Adrian O'Connor,  
Patricia Pettijohn, Library  
George Roy,  
Hugh LaFollette  
Ernie Gonzalez, J. E. (ex officio non-voting member)

9. **Second we need Communication**—I will send emails and you talk to the members of the committee, we will work hard to be transparent and keep communication open.
  10. **Third we need to maintain our current Tradition**, during our transition, we do not want to move to fast. so although we are moving toward change, and some of you will move easily and others will resist, we need to keep the current
    - a. **We need to continue to assess GE Tribute**, as we have to maintain our compliance, there is no question about that. So please if you have a GE course, continue to send that information to **Susan Toler and to Ernie Gonzlez. J. collect the tribute**
    - b. **Status quo—hold off on new GE applications**. However, since we are redressing our GE curriculum, we would like to ask that faculty seriously consider whether they want to add NEW GE courses at this point, since once we revise the GE curriculum there may be changes that need to made once again. This request is a temporary stay and unless there are extenuating circumstances, we would like to suggest that faculty wait until we have reviewed current curriculum to submit new applications.
4. Fourth, Time Line:  
**Spring 2012**
1. reviewing the philosophy of the General Education requirements at USFSP
  2. evaluating the existing list of student learning outcomes (SLO)- working with Susan and Ernie to collect this data.
  3. Assessment Day will become GE day and we will use this day to bring to the wider faculty the philosophy and mission we have come up with as a committee and we will break up in tables for faculty to work with specific GE

members who will take notes and bring back to the committee your ideas for integration into the mission. We have two days open for this March 23 and April 13. I believe the committee needs to meet at least 5 times, that is every two weeks to pull this together and so I am tentatively suggesting April 13. I am going to work with a sub committee to outline our strategy, but I think it will involve the following 1) looking at what is in our heads and hearts; 2) reading about what other institutions and philosophers of GE have to say 3) examining the missions of other similar institutions 4) & 5) and two meetings to consolidate this into a concise and unique statement of our own to bring to the wider faculty.

### **Fall 2012 and Spring 2013**

3. examining the suitability of GE courses and the rationale for how these courses support the learning outcomes;

This is a process and process takes time, it needs to be fair and open and we need to agree as a community how are we going to transition our students, how will we teach them what tools will we use and how will we modify the Traditional system. Will we modify it or rebuild a new one completely. What will be our procedures for defining our SLOs, we have to incorporate State standards, but beyond this what are the details of our SLO and what courses will we use to fulfill these. I foresee that this will require a lot of communication and probably several faculty wide meetings.

### **Fall 2013**

4. Our fourth charge is making suggestions to improve GE assessment. How will we assess the curriculum that we have now come up with. We do not have to assess every class every semester, there are alternative models and we need to explore these and once again keep communication open and come to a consensus.

So I think this will take at least two years and I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and for listening to me today.