



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

3-27-2015

General Education Committee Meeting : 2015 : 03: 27

General Education Committee

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USFSP GE committee (GEC) meeting
27 March 2015
Harbor Hall
12:00PM – 2:30PM

Committee members:

Morgan Gresham (Chair)
Hugh LaFollette
Adrian O'Connor
Kathy Carvalho-Knighton
David John
Rick Smith
Paul Wang
Anthony Stamatoplos
Deanna Michael
Invited Guest: Cyndie Collins

12:10-15PM: Review of minutes from previous meeting. Morgan noted the need to include mention of the committee's approval of the proposal to continue the USF system general education articulation agreement, which was reviewed, voted on, and approved in the last meeting.

Minutes from March 13 were reviewed and approved pending the addition of the articulation agreement material.

12:15 – 12:25: Discussion of the awarding of GE credit for grades below a C-

Currently, one must have a 2.0 *average* in general education courses, but may receive credit for *individual* grades below C- (e.g. a semester grade of D in a GE course would still get a student GE credit for that course, as long as she has maintains a GE average of 2.0 or higher).

Discussion included concerns regarding the possible unintended consequences that might follow from changing the policy (e.g. grade inflation, students needing to take on extra credit hours, retention issues)

12:25PM – Committee votes to recommend to the Faculty Senate that there be a minimum grade of C- in GE courses for students to receive GE credit, with a scheduled review of the consequences of this change 2 years after its implementation.

12:30PM – Kathy Carvalho-Knighton discusses the importance of enlisting the new departmental assistants in spreading information regarding new GE policies and also in acquiring GE assessment data, reviews, syllabi, etc.

12:30 - 12:40 – Discussion of Physics with calculus course, which is a GE-state-mandated course, but which is not currently offered at USFSP (nor is it likely to be offered soon). Committee recommends that this course be removed from the list of GE courses in the USFSP catalog and that Linda Crossman review the course to determine whether it ought to be removed from the catalog altogether.

12:40-1:25PM – Hugh LaFollette proposes an addition to our new review procedures for the new GE program, one that would establish “site-visits” of pairs of committee members to a sample section of each course in the GE content area being reviewed that academic year.

Discussion of such “qualitative” forms of assessment, possible consequences for collegiality and the problem of “representative” visits and “objective” assessments of what is witnessed.

This issue is tabled, but it is recommended that next year’s GE committee consider ways in which to include qualitative and substantive review of courses, perhaps including scheduled class visits alongside GE-specific student evaluations, quantitative assessment data regarding outcomes, etc.

1:25PM – Discussion of the department of Verbal and Visual Arts inquiry regarding the revision and resubmission of their recently declined proposal.

Consensus that applications may be re-submitted, but would-be applicants are encouraged to bear in mind that there should be no presumption that courses will be included in GE *and* that courses that are rejected would require substantial revision and would have to demonstrate that there were reasons that the course should be assessed differently than it originally was.

2:00PM Review of MMC 3602

This course had been approved as a Communications course, but was then rejected by the UGC. It is being re-presented as a Social Science GE course.

Vote to reject as a Social Science General Education offering, while noting that the original approval of it as a Communications offering remains in place, if the department wants to work to revise the application in order to meet the concerns of the UGC regarding its inclusion under that category

Next meeting scheduled for 17 April at 1:30PM