

General Education Council

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2010

Allie Young 31

The General Education Council met at 10 a.m. January 7, 2010, in Room 31 Allie Young. Members present: Loretta Lykins, Clarenda Phillips, Cyndi Gibbs, Barbara Dehner, Edna Schack, Charles Patrick, Yvonne Baldwin, Robert Boram, Glen Colburn, Timothy Hare, Cathy Thomas, Rebecca Katz, and Elsie Pritchard. Members absent: Beverly McCormick, Dianna Murphy, Carol Wymer, Dayna Seelig.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the December 17 meeting were approved with the following change to page 2: "A variety of options were discussed by the council. First the council considered the FYS proposal, Coffee and Chocolate, submitted by Dr. Krummrich. It was agreed by majority vote that the proposal, if approved following revision, would not be designated for honors students. Dr. Krummrich was asked to resubmit the proposal upon making the requested revisions. By majority vote, it was agreed that the Honors Program may recommend but not require their students to take this seminar." Dr. Creahan's name was misspelled in the minutes.
2. **Old Business:**
 - A. Discussion concerning a draft rationale from the council to the Provost on creating a position for a General Education Assessment Coordinator took place. The council agreed at the Dec. 14 meeting that this would be a necessary part of the institution's ability to manage, track, and implement necessary changes to general education, and agreed that Yvonne would meet with the Provost to discuss this issue. In that meeting, the Provost asked that the council provide a written rationale. Cathy Thomas will prepare a working draft using the draft she prepared for this meeting, today's discussion, and Dianna Murphy's emailed 5 point statement. Cathy and Yvonne will combine these and send them to the council for editing, compilation, and approval via "virtual" meeting, and the rationale will be forwarded to the Provost.
 - B. The council had asked Yvonne Baldwin, when she attended the SACS annual conference in early December, to examine the issue of Gen Ed oversight and management of the various aspects of the program, especially assessment. These were discussed during her December 14 report. There was mention of the placement of Gen Ed in the university administrative structure. Currently it appears in a sub-unit of the unit in which it was housed at the time of the last SACS visit. A brief discussion took place about whether it might be better placed organizationally to reflect the priority it occupies in terms of current academic mission, and whether a more lateral arrangement with colleges would facilitate communication and implementation. Dr. Baldwin indicated at the December 17 meeting that further discussion of this was in order, specifically a discussion with her supervisor, Dayna Seelig. Dr. Seelig has since informed Dr. Baldwin that the Provost had agreed the day prior to our meeting that the first phase of organizational change has been completed and that no new shifts in the university structure are being contemplated.

3. The issue of librarians proposing/teaching FYS sections was discussed in reference to the question posed by Elsie Pritchard in email. Given the university's position on the status of librarians, it was agreed by acclamation that they should be able to do so.
4. Consideration of the Interdisciplinary Honors Writing II Type II proposal took place. Decision was tabled pending the creation and adoption of a checklist for review of proposals and a set of guidelines for stating outcomes. Cyndi Gibbs and Barbara Dehner will develop the form which will be considered and adopted at the Blackboard chat site.
5. Consideration of new FYS proposal from Dr. Rajeev took place. His proposal was approved pending revisions. The proposal is over the word limit, needs a more focused and concise course description and title, and the biography needs to be condensed. The proposal needs to more clearly make the link to the fact or fiction theme.
6. Consideration of new FYS proposal from Dr. Hardesty took place. The proposal was approved as submitted.
7. Consideration of FYS revisions from Pidluzni, Neeper, and Chapman took place. Pidluzni's and Neeper's proposals were approved as revised. Following discussion, it was agreed that Dr. Boram will discuss suggestions for revision with Dr. Chapman, and emphasize those suggested by Dean DeMoss in his comments.
8. Dr. David Barnette inquired via email whether his college's EDF 211 Human Growth and Development, which is currently a Gen Ed course should be proposed as a Distribution Course if they intend to use it as an exchange. The council has not yet considered this issue, but given the adopted guidelines, the answer is no. Exchanges do have to provide documentation that they meet the required SLOs. Additional information on this issue will be developed this semester.
9. Discussion of meeting days/time took place. Discussion centered on Friday afternoons from 2 to 4 and Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:50 a.m. Some members preferred the Friday afternoon time, while the majority preferred 7:30. It was agreed by majority vote that every third meeting will be scheduled on Fridays. The dates for the semester follow: January 6, 13, 20, 29; February 3,10,17, 26; March 3,10,24; April 2,7,14,21,30; May 5, 12.