

General Education Council

Meeting Agenda

January 13, 2010

Allie Young 31

The General Education Council met at 7:30 a.m. January 13, 2010, in Room 31 Allie Young. Members Present: Loretta Lykins, Clarenda Phillips, Cyndi Gibbs, Barbara Dehner, Edna Schack, Yvonne Baldwin, Glen Colburn, Timothy Hare, Rebecca Katz, Elsie Pritchard, Beverly McCormick, Dianna Murphy, Carol Wymer, Dayna Seelig. Members absent: Charles Patrick, Robert Boram, Cathy Thomas.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the January 7 meeting were approved with the following correction. Page 1. "Dr. Seelig has since informed Dr. Baldwin that the Cabinet had agreed..." should read "the Provost had agreed."
2. **Dora Ahmadi** was present at the request of the Council to discuss the Math proposals which had been tabled at the December 17 meeting. Dr. Ahmadi stated that the proposals are very similar to those already in the curriculum, but they now include the required SLOs and assessments, including common assessments. She said it is not practical or desirable to have a single math course that fits all needs. She briefly reviewed the purpose and nature of the seven courses, 123, 131, 135, 141, 152, 174, and 175. Discussion and questions centered on whether courses that serve specific needs of majors/programs are really general education. Some expressed the view that the role of gen ed is not to serve the majors. Some expressed the view that these proposals do not serve majors or programs, rather they are designed to address the vast differences in skill levels of incoming students. It was pointed out that the reduction in credits to graduation from 128 to 120, which if added to a gen ed curriculum that offers fewer discipline specific math courses to serve the levels of student achievement, would place a real burden on the programs. The role of the exchange courses was discussed, as were the various issues concerning transfer and new legislation on that issue. The Registrar raised the issue of the SACS principle that specifies that gen ed courses not narrowly introduce specific disciplines but promote breadth of knowledge. The statistics course drew criticism in the last SACS report.
Action: Following discussion of the December 14 recommendation for three math proposals in the core, the council approved by majority vote a motion to ask the math department to submit proposals for four core math course options at the various skill levels they have identified and to clearly state testing and content challenge options (such as CLEP). The math department is urged to collaborate with academic programs that require a basic math course with the goal of meeting those needs in the coursework of one or more of the math options.
3. Old Business
 - a. Completion of Rationale for Assessment person was briefly discussed. Cathy Thomas, who was to provide the draft, was unable to attend the meeting.
 - b. Completion of a Proposal Evaluation Form was discussed. It was agreed that the form was for council use only and was to assist in the systematic evaluation of proposals,

including SLOs. It was agreed that the “fill in the box” arrangement we designed for the FYS proposal process would be helpful. Dr. Katz agreed to make some editorial changes to the draft and send it via email for further discussion and amendment.

- 4.** The meeting adjourned at 9 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday morning, January 20 at 7:30 a.m.