

USFSP General Education Committee
Meeting Minutes: 12/10/2009

Present: Tom Carter, Dawn Cecil, Morgan Gresham, Olivia Hodges, Tina Neville, Ernie Gonzalez; Cyndie Collins

Ernie Gonzalez followed up on some of the topics he addressed at the November meeting. In particular, he addressed a new GE form that was found on the SACS website, which we are required to complete. He presented the form for the committee's consideration and went through the requirements for each section. It is currently in draft form. He also handed out a list of GE classes and their assessment plans/data for fall 2008, Spring 2009 and Fall 2009. Since the push in Fall 2008 there has been a drop off in the number of people submitting their data. It is important to not only get the data, but also make note of any mistakes in the tables that are on these sheets (using MAC 1105 as an example, the types of mistakes commonly found was noted). He will send these data to the committee electronically. For fall 2009, faculty who are assessing their GE classes must send Ernie the number of students enrolled at the time of assessment, the number who passed/met the outcome and the number who did not pass/meet the outcome. The due date is December 18. Finally, Ernie announced that there will be a spring faculty meeting, which would be a good time for the committee to announce any task force meetings planned for the spring semester.

After Dr. Gonzalez left the committee reviewed the comments made by him to ensure that the tasks at hand were understood. Morgan will request a report from Ernie for our next meeting. In addition, we will announce at the spring the faculty meeting strategic task force meetings for later in the spring. Suggestions were made as to how to improve on the task forces from last year. We will consider breaking the task forces into different rooms to make the environment more amendable to discussion. In addition, there is the possibility of combining the exit course task force into each of the individual task forces since they are taught by so many different departments.

Cyndie Collins spoke to the committee about a system-wide meeting on GE that was held. USF Sarasota is looking to create their own GE curriculum, as USFSP did, while Lakeland is using Tampa's models. There are problems, however, when students are using OASIS to register and determine which classes they need. The goal is to find a way to program OASIS to deal with these differences.

A draft of a new GE Course Application form was distributed. The format was discussed. Tina Neville moved to approve the form; Dawn Cecil seconded the motion. The committee approved the form.

Mark Walters submitted a potential GE course for approval. The committee discussed the application and came up with some questions. First, need to clarify what level the proposed course will be. Second, how will the social science evaluations be integrated into the class? Morgan will ask Dr. Walters to respond to these questions and we will revisit the application at the January meeting.

An issue that was brought up during the review of Dr. Walters' course was whether new applications would be approved. In the previous year the committee was instructed to work on decreasing the number of GE course offerings.

The committee agreed to schedule the next GE committee meeting for Wednesday, January 20 at 11:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned.