

USFSP General Education Committee
Meeting Minutes: 1/20/10

Present: Tom Carter, Dawn Cecil, Morgan Gresham, Olivia Hodges, Tina Neville, Ernie Gonzalez, Tiffany Chenneville, Mark Walters

The committee reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. No changes were requested.

Ernie Gonzalez discussed the GE task force meetings he would like us to hold. We were able to get off probation from SACS due largely in part from the data collected at the meetings held in 2008; therefore, these are important. The only available date in March is Friday the 19th. They have reserved rooms in FCT to accommodate these sessions. There may be smaller rooms available in FCT as well for quieter discussions; the logistics just need to be worked out. Ernie also discussed the fact that data are still needed from both spring and fall of 2009. At present time, they have only received about 50% of the needed data. He wanted to know what role the committee is going to take in helping to collect these data. Morgan stated we need a report of what data are still needed then we will be able to take the next step to help collect the data. Ernie promised to bring the data as well as MAPP data to the February meeting so that we can have a meeting among the committee to get ready for the task force meetings.

Next the committee heard from Mark Walters who was asked to respond to questions the committee had when reviewing his application for a new GE course in December 2009. Mark addressed the committee noting the following: (1) the course is not necessarily intended to be a 3000-level course. A number is still needed. (2) He attempted to clarify the purpose of his course in the introduction section of his syllabus. He made it a little more general and it will be able to apply to not only health science majors, but also other life science majors, such as biology. (3) He showed the committee the chart in his syllabus showing how the outcomes will be met in class. Olivia asked about having the students design a study. Morgan helped clarify the intentions of this assignment stating that by designing the studies themselves the students can demonstrate their knowledge of research methods. Mark stated that was the intention. The committee informed Mark that we would discuss the status of the class, which the committee did once Dr. Walters left the meeting. The group concluded that they had enough information to make a recommendation. One recommendation is to Dr. Walters to clarify the purpose of having the students design a study, as mentioned by Morgan. Second, the committee recommends that the course be considered for a GE course; however, at the time we do not know whether we have the authority to pass any new classes. Once Morgan discusses this with Dr. Noonan then the committee can vote.

Next the committee discussed the task force meetings. Morgan and Olivia are unavailable on March 19th. The other members will need to help organize/run these meetings and we will need to recruit others to help. It was decided that we will start with a general meeting at 9:00 to discuss the overall purpose of the meetings. After that the breakout sessions will take place. Exit course will not have a separate session rather they will be incorporated into the other discussions. The same may be done for ALAMEA course. The overall purpose is to discuss the outcomes, whether they are being met, and overall, trying to collect additional data for the SACs report.

The minutes from the GE committee have not been posted on the website since 2008. Morgan will determine how this needs to be done and then Dawn will post all the minutes.

The committee agreed to tentatively schedule the next GE committee meeting for Thursday, February 11 at 2:00 pm. This will be confirmed after checking on John Arthur's schedule.

The meeting was adjourned.