The General Education Council met for its regular meeting on Friday, September 16, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 1118 Anne Belk Hall. Voting members present: Dr. Phillip Ardoin, Dr. Michael Behrent, Dr. Marie Hoepfl, Dr. Michael Krenn, Dr. Paulette Marty, Ms. Kelly McBride, Dr. Terri Mitchell, Dr. David Orvis, Dr. Georgia Rhoades, Dr. Joel Sanqui, Mr. Kyle Schermbeck, Dr. Laurie Semmes, Dr. Marilyn Smith, Dr. Ray Williams. Non-voting members present were: Dr. Susan Davies, Dr. Elaine Gray, Ms. Kristin Hyle, Dr. Leslie Jones, Dr. Mike Mayfield, Ms. Jenny Primm, Ms. Lynne Waugh, Ms. Andrea Wawrzusin, Dr. Jeni Wyatt, Ms. Sheryl Mohn (scribe). Guests present were: Ms. Selena Dollar. Member excused: Ms. Alexandra McPherson

Dr. Marty called the meeting to order at 3:05 when a quorum was reached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

New members were introduced and welcomed.

Dr. Marty updated members on the following items:

- There is potential for a 2+2 program with Duy Tan University in Vietnam. The Office of General Education is currently working on articulating Duy Tan courses that would count for credit in the General Education Program. Will bring proposal to GEC for approval at the next meeting.

- The proposal to change the FCC structure was tabled by AP&P until the Provost decides on recommendations made in the GERTF report.

- Plans are in process for developing domestic study away programs with a focus on international issues that would count for General Education credit. This is a much less expensive option than international study and still works toward QEP goals. Dr. Phillip Ardoin and Dr. Michael Krenn have plans to pilot one in May - two courses over two weeks in the summer – one week in Boone and one week in Washington, DC. A research paper would be due 4-6 weeks after the two week course is completed. This would be for six credit hours and would enable the student to complete a theme. Others in planning stages are Cuban Experience in Miami and Origins & Migrations in New York City.

- The new online theme selection/declaration tool for students was introduced. This tool will be available through Banner Self Service with the implementation of DegreeWorks. This tool should help with advising and can help track progress through Gen Ed. This will be part of the ERA prior to orientation. Kyle Schermbeck reported that the focus group of students who looked at DegreeWorks was very satisfied.

- The General Education Review Task Force (GERTF) report and the response from the Office of General Education are under consideration by the new provost. This is an opportunity for GEC members to voice their comments/feedback/questions. The Faculty Senate will be taking a straw poll on each of the five recommendations in the GERTF report at its next meeting – no discussion. Dr. Williams expressed surprise that there was a review task force created so soon, as the General Education curriculum is only now in its third year. He reminded members that the General Education Task Force, in their three years of work to create the program, expected the negative to surface more quickly and that more time needs to be given to work the “kinks” out. Dr. Williams also expressed concern that the work “science” did not show up in the GERTF report. Ms. Waugh expressed concern that advisors haven’t had a voice and they would like the opportunity to respond to the GERTF report. She further stated that the
recommendations to move Gen Ed to College of Arts & Sciences and the recommendation to change to two designators were a concern. Dr. Ardoin reported that the issue of designations repeatedly came up in the feedback the review task force received from groups they met with and surveyed. They heard that students are choosing themes based on designators rather than experience of broad topics. Dr. Mayfield shared that Provost Gonzalez has assured everyone that this will be an open conversation about all these issues. Dr. Marty expressed she feels very strongly that a clear resolution is needed by the end of this academic year so the program can move forward.

• Planning process for Gen Ed course renewal:  In the original Gen Ed Task Force report, it was recommended that Gen Ed courses be renewed every three years.  Academic Affairs has determined that this process should be delayed until after the SACS reaccreditation visit. Therefore, the course renewal process will begin in Fall 2013.  Dr. Marty and Dr. Gray will meet with the FCC Chairs to discuss what this process will look like and will finalize it this semester. Ms. Wawrzusin requested that the Registrar’s Office be engaged early in the process.

• Who should make decisions on action items for Gen Ed assessment:  Dr. Gray opened discussion – should we form an assessment sub-committee to review assessment data or should the Gen Ed office do this?  It was decided that the Gen Ed office staff/faculty will draft action steps, send them to the FCC chairs, then to full Council for approval.

• Possibility of substituting UNC sister institutions General Education requirement for ASU’s Gen Ed: Nearly 50% of our transfer students come from four-year schools. “Gen Ed Complete” is not noted on transcripts. The Office of Transfer Articulation will run a report on new UNC system transfers and do some research to see what matches with ASU courses. It was suggested that the students should have some of the responsibility for proving they have met Gen Ed requirements at a UNC sister institution by providing course information, etc. It was also mentioned that a significant number of prospective students make contact with the university – what transfers in is a major deciding factor. Registrars across the UNC system are pushing for a “Gen Ed Met” notation on transcripts from all UNC system schools.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of April 2011 Minutes:
A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from the April 2011 meeting as written.

VOTE 1: YES: 14  NO: 0  ABSTAIN: 0
Motion carried.

Guidelines for Evaluation of Out-of-State AA/AS degrees:
The proposed guidelines with three options was distributed prior to the meeting. Following discussion, a motion to accept Option 2 was made and seconded. Option 2 reads: Completion of the following coursework, with a grade of C or better in each course, will fulfill the requirement of the General Education Program. This coursework is parallel to the coursework required of students to complete the Community College Core, which forms the basis of AA and AS programs in the North Carolina Community College System. 44 semester hours in general education courses, including the following specific areas:
8 hours (2 courses, with labs) in Natural Science
3 hours in Math
3 hours in Math, Computer Information Systems, or Statistics
6 hours in English Composition
12 hours of Humanities/Fine Arts in at least 3 disciplines; 3 hours must be Literature
12 hours of Social Sciences in at least 3 disciplines; 3 hours must be History

VOTE 2: YES: 14  NO: 0  ABSTAIN: 0
Motion Carried. Proposal will be made to UC Council, then, if passed, to AP&P.

Transfer Students and First Year Seminar Policy:
The proposed policy was distributed prior to the meeting. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the policy as written.

  VOTE: 3  YES: 14  NO: 0  ABSTAIN: 0
  Motion carried.
  Proposal will be made to UC Council, then, if passed, to AP&P for effective date of Fall 2012.

It was noted by Dr. Mayfield that Provost Gonzalez expressed concern about changing the requirements for transfer students and will be tracking the success of transfer students very closely. This issue may be revisited at a future date.

Adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by,
Sheryl M. Mohn
General Education Program