GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

October 15, 2010

Minutes

The General Education Council met for its regular on Friday, October 15, 2010 at 3:00 pm in Room 05 of Anne Belk Hall. Voting members present were: Dr. Phillip Ardoin, Dr. George Ehrhardt, Dr. Joe Gonzalez, Ms. Carter Hammett-McGarry, Mr. Jackson Lever, Dr. Paulette Marty, Ms. Kelly McBride, Dr. Georgia Rhoades, Dr. Marilyn Smith, Ms. Carol Soule’, Dr. John Stephenson, Dr. Ray Williams. Non-voting members present were: Ms. Kristin Hyle, Dr. Mike Mayfield, Ms. Jenny Primm, Dr. Pete Wachs, Ms. Lynne Waugh, Dr. Jeni Wyatt, and Ms. Sheryl Mohn (Scribe).

Guests: Members of General Education Task Force

Members excused: Ms. Laura Byrd, Dr. Terri Mitchell

Dr. Paulette Marty welcomed the members of the General Education Task Force and introduced Dr. Mike Mayfield, who is speaking today on behalf of Dr. Lorin Baumhover. Dr. Baumhover had asked to speak at today’s meeting to discuss the plan for review of the General Education Program; however, he was unable to attend due to a called Chancellor’s Cabinet meeting. Dr. Mayfield described the developing plans for the General Education Program review and led a brief discussion in which those present offered comments and suggestions about the review process.

Dr. Marty called the business meeting to order at 3:35.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded that the September 24, 2010 Minutes be approved with corrections as noted.

VOTE 1: YES: 13 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Motion carried.

Policy Discussions/Votes:

Faculty Coordinating Committee Structure: Dr. Marty referred members to the document posted on the AsULearn site for this meeting, which reports on the feedback she received from departments regarding the recommendation that the structure be changed. Others present shared feedback they have received as well. Literary Studies reported there were some strong objections to 3-person committee, much prefers 5-member to avoid three departments having too much power over the component. Science Inquiry reported unanimous opposition to change stating that the potential loss of representation outweighs the faculty workload issues. It was suggested that it is not too much to ask to meet 1 – 1.5 hours per month and perhaps the faculty workload issue has been overblown. The workload of FCCs has decreased dramatically since the initial course approvals. Quantitative Literacy reported they have been operating with a 3-person committee with two members from the same department and have had no problems – no turf issues. Historical & Social is also operating with a 3-person committee (from three different
departments) and is having no problems. It was suggested that scheduling meetings for three people on a committee is significantly easier than scheduling meetings for five people. Ms. Hammett-McGarry observed that one of the distinctions between the FCC structure and the structure of the old Core Curriculum Council is that the FCCs membership is based upon disciplinary expertise rather than college affiliation. Dr. Mayfield and Ms. Hammett-McGarry reported that finding five people to serve on each committee has become difficult. For the five-person FCCs, two new committee members must be recruited each year. Faculty Senate has come to GE leadership to help in finding faculty willing to serve. Question was raised why isn’t Faculty Senate contacting department chairs to provide a list of potential members who are teaching General Education courses. It was also pointed out that the General Education FCCs are not on all departments’ lists of committees that are used to satisfy service requirement by tenured and tenure-track faculty. The point was also made that some department’s GE courses are taught primarily by adjunct faculty who have no service requirement, therefore, the interest in service on GE FCCs is “off the radar” of T and TT faculty.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Option 1 from the memorandum – “reduce the number of faculty serving on each Perspective FCC (Historical and Social, Local to Global, Science Inquiry, and Aesthetic) from five to three, effective at beginning of Fall 2011 semester.

**VOTE 2:** YES: 6 NO: 5 ABSTAIN: 3

Motion carried. NOTE: This recommendation will be submitted as a formal proposal to AP&P for their vote.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Option 2a from the memorandum – “Combine the Fine Arts, Literary Studies, and Historical Studies FCCs into one Designations FCC with one of the follow structures:

- **a)** Three members, including one who teaches a course with a Fine Arts Designation, one who teaches a course with a Historical Studies Designation, and one who teaches a course with a Literary Studies Designation.”

**VOTE 3:** YES: 3 NO: 10 ABSTAIN: 1

Motion failed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Option 2b from the memorandum – “Combine the Fine Arts, Literary Studies, and Historical Studies FCCs into one Designations FCC with one of the follow structures:

- **b)** Five members, including one from a fine arts department (Art, Music, or Theatre & Dance), one from the History Department, one from the English Department, and two at-large members.
A friendly amendment was added by Dr. Ehrhardt that membership include one from Literary Studies and one from Historical & Social instead of English Department and History Department. This amendment was withdrawn by Dr. Ehrhardt following discussion.

VOTE 4: YES: 0 NO: 13 ABSTAIN: 0
Motion failed.

Reports from FCCs:
1. Historical and Social Perspective:
   FCC is recommending approval of new theme – “War in Europe” for a Summer 2011 effective date. This will be a 6 hour theme taught only in the summer and will consist of the following courses:
   FL 2025 Literature in Translation
   HIS 3535 War and Society in Germany
   SOC 3800 Sociology of War
   FL/HIS/SOC 3530 – Wars of Our Fathers: Encountering & Interpreting Armed Conflict in Europe

VOTE 5: YES: 13 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 1
Theme approved. It was noted that this is being considered simultaneously through GEC and College of Arts & Sciences Council. GEC approval is contingent upon ASC approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Submitted by: Sheryl M. Mohn
Program Associate, General Education