The General Education Council met on Friday, March 26, 2010 at 3:00 pm in room 1118 of Anne Belk Hall. Members present were: Dr. Jim Barnes, Dr. Joby Bell, Dr. Joe Gonzales, Ms. Carter Hammett-McGarry, Dr. Gabrielle Katz, Dr. Sue Keefe, Dr. Rick Klima, Dr. Paulette Marty, Dr. Mike Mayfield, Ms. Kelly McBride, Dr. Tom McLaughlin, Dr. Terri Mitchell, Dr. Georgia Rhoades, Dr. Jim Toub, Mr. Peter Rowe, Dr. Dave Haney, Dr. Elaine Gray, Mr. Nick Rudisill, Ms. Lynne Waugh, Ms. Tina Parlier, Dr. Peter Wachs, Ms. Sheryl Mohn (Scribe).

Guests: Ila Prouty

Members excused: Mr. Zach Grier

Dr. Mike Mayfield called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm when a quorum was reached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Dave Haney congratulated Peter Rowe who was elected today as SGA President. Dr. Mike Mayfield reported on the progress of the Provost search committee – airport interviews took place this week; on-campus visits/interviews will begin immediately following the Easter break.

MINUTES

1. The minutes of the February 26, 2010 General Education Council meeting were approved without changes.

   VOTE 1: YES 12  NO 0  ABSTAIN 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM FEBRUARY 26 MEETING:

ROLE OF FCCs IN ASSESSMENT:

Dr. Gray opened discussion on where we are with the assessment process following Barbara Walvoord’s workshops. We still need to identify the role of the FCCs and create a process for reporting back to the Council. Dr. Gray asked for input from members for what would be a meaningful and useful process for each component; what constitutes an assessment unit for General Education. Following discussion, consensus was reached to define an assessment unit as a Theme. It was reiterated that assessment will take place at a program level, not a course level. Artifacts produced near the end of the theme will give the best example of what was learned – will come from more mature students.

THEME TEAM LEADERS: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: (See Handout)

Dr. Gray continued discussion of the roles of Theme Team Coordinators (theme team leaders). These leaders serve as a resource when there are questions about proposals and/or the proposal process. This takes some of the load off of the FCC chairs and creates a better line of
communication. Theme Coordinator will be used as the “official title”, which will more formalize the role and create more ownership. The GE office will send out letters at the end of each school year to the Coordinator, with copies to the appropriate department chair, thanking them for serving as Coordinator. This will give each coordinator a record of their work. To summarize: Dr. Gray and Dr. Mayfield will create a statement of procedure and distribute it to Council members for feedback, with a vote planned for next meeting. Dr. Gray will ask Kristin to post the rubrics on AsULearn. Dr. Gray and Dr. Mayfield will post the Theme Coordinator document on AsULearn.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES & INTEGRATION IN SYLLABI: (See Handout)
Council members were urged to communicate with the constituents in their areas the expectation that the GE outcomes need to be included on syllabi. Use the Theme Coordinators to communicate this to faculty proposing GE courses. Those involved with assessment at the university level need to communicate to chairs that we know we’re going to be assessed, so put outcomes on syllabi. It was suggested that a “cover sheet” be created that could be with proposal forms that could list what the goals are for GE courses.

CONTINUATION OF POLICIES FOR 2009-2010 TRANSFER STUDENTS: (See Handout)
“Wild card” policy: Ms. Hammett-McGarry opened discussion about whether or not to continue this policy. It was created to be a transition policy for one year only. Ms. Lynne Waugh reported that the advisors like the wild card option – it gives advisors some flexibility in helping transfer students. The community colleges are not yet in line with their courses, which is still causing some transfer issues.

2. Dr. Sue Keefe made a motion, which was properly seconded, to continue the wild card policy for another two years for students entering Fall 2010 – Summer 2012. This policy pertains to true transfer students (30 or more hours and not classified as a Freshman transfer).

VOTE 2: YES: 14 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Discussion of final item carried over from January meeting – limits of number of courses in themes and number of themes in perspectives – will be discussed at the April meeting.
NEW BUSINESS:
REPORTS FROM FCCs:

1. **Historical and Social Perspective:**
   *Individual and Society Theme:*
   FCC recommends adding RM 2100 Leisure in Society for Fall 2010. This course has already been approved by AP&P. Discussion included concerns expressed over volume of courses already in this theme (6) and the number of themes already in the perspective (9).
   
   **VOTE 3:** YES: 13  NO: 1  ABSTAIN: 0
   
   Recommendation approved.

2. **Historical and Social Perspective:**
   *Cultural Diversity Theme:*
   FCC is NOT recommending approval of ART 2011 as part of this theme. Decision is based on the fact that there are already seven courses in this theme. This course is already in Local to Global Perspective/Identity, Culture & Media Theme.
   
   Dr. Ila Prouty, Art Dept., attended today’s meeting to discuss options of proceeding without FCC recommendation. Options were discussed: 1) continue this track and ask GEC to vote. If GEC votes it down, then the next step would be to appeal to the AP&P; 2) hold asking for a vote until after GEC hold its discussion at the next meeting regarding number of courses in themes. The GEC was not asked to consider this proposal at this time.

3. **Historical and Social Perspective:**
   *Capitalism and Its Critics Theme:*
   ECO 2030 Principles of Economics – Price Theory
   FIN 2860 Personal Finance
   HIS 3524 World Economy: History & Theory
   PS 3410 Marxism
   MGT 3040 Child Labor in Global & Historical Perspective
   
   FCC recommends that these five courses be approved for Spring 2010. This theme was previously approved, but to date has not had any courses in it.
   
   **VOTE 3:** YES: 11  NO: 1  ABSTAIN: 1
   
   Recommendation approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Submitted by: Sheryl M. Mohn, PHR
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