General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2013

Members Present: Brooke Burk, Lisa Czirr, Emily Quinlan, Sonia Sharma, David Smukler, Carol Van Der Karr, Yomee Lee, Bruce Mattingly

Members Absent:

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action** |
| **Welcome and approval of minutes** | * Sonia made a slight change to last week’s minutes.
* Faculty Senate officially passed FL Tuesday.
 | **Minutes approved.** |
| **Associate Provost of Academic Affairs Report**  | * Carol Van Der Karr met with Clark Center to discuss study abroad to fulfill a GE category.
* Possibilities – GE 5/GE 6
* Spring assessment – GE 1, GE 4, GE 11
* Critical Thinking
 | * **Figure out a way to justify learning outcomes.**
* **Emphasize the study abroad experience with advising and some flexibility along with prior permission.**
* **Identify appropriate GE categories for experience.**
* **New assessment plan – Collegiate Learning Assessment**
	+ **Fr. Fall and Sr. Spring – Essay with written response**
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| **Seamless Transfer proposal** | * Carol– Important to collect all data before moving forward with findings.
* Sonia – Faculty Senate worried about a possible hidden agenda to offer more online classes.
 | * **Carol- Chancellor’s “Open SUNY” 100,000 students online. – offer online classes that are not available on campus to assist with options. Well intended initiative.**
* **Bruce-Reassured that there is not a hidden agenda regarding Seamless Transfer.**
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| **Survey Results** | * Carol agreed with thoughts and responses
* Brooke – Faculty response was the need to provide more choices amongst categories.
* More writing and critical thinking
* Carol – better representation amongst schools responses would have helped
* David – How to separate intent of GE vs. politics of GE. A global education vs. maintaining lines and course/offerings. GE is needed for balance. Create more freedom of choice for students in programs that strictly structured to help encourage interest in GE.
* Carol – Other SUNY’s have found a way to eliminate categories or combine courses that cover the name material.
* Brooke – Responses
* Student – 153 who have taken at least 11 or more GE. Want more choices. Felt constraint to find a fit with major and requirements. Felt that knowledge and diversity increased due to pulling students out of their major. Learned from educators that they might not have had. Want for reduction of requirements to finish “on time”
* Faculty – requirements often go to the wayside for too large sections of GE when enrollment gets too high.
* Sonia – Would TA be a solution?
* Carol – Need for conversation
* Brooke – Next steps due to need for more info to formulate a proposal.
* David – Reduction of adjunct affected created difficulty to offer classes and options. Number of issues related to GE. Is a breadth offered? Waivers can help transfers by helping reduce number of required GEs to be completed. How will individual departments be affected? Will it cause competition between departments? Once something is initiated, how long will it take? Change can be very slow. There is a need to move forward. Focus groups can cause a lag. Figure out a way to make progress.
* Carol – Last GE restructure took 2 yrs. After discussion.
* David – Not any real authority at the committee level. How will decisions be made and done effectively without hurting people? Who will make the decisions? Don’t want to be perceived as pushing an agenda.
* Carol – Task for created in the past. GE would have to pass through committee before moving to Faculty Senate.
* Sonia - When can we expect 7 out of 10 to be mandated?
* David and Emily – is there a way to restructure GE 12 since many of the courses are built into majors and have no trouble filling. Won’t lose enrollment.
* Bruce: Asked for clarity and accuracy of terminology.
* Carol – Peer comparison is important. We are well above other sister schools with GE requirements. Limited options and lack of electives.
 | * **Continue thinking about how program is assessed to help faculty.**
* **Determine a better way to increase engagement with surveying faculty to encourage a better response.**
* **Try to create more options based on want as opposed to need to reduce class size for very popular GE categories that students are taking because they meet a requirement, instead of out of genuine interest.**
* **Plan to create focus groups to pursue discussion.**
* **More formalized survey, focus groups w/ various departments, quantitative analysis.**
* **Without restructuring, build in flexibility. Give people the opportunity to be hard and to talk. Be reasonable and offer a variety of options. Include: surveys, focus groups, meetings and open forums.**
* **David – Articulate questions based on surveys**
* **Brooke – separate student feedback and cont. involving students.**
* **Carol – Proactively based questions: How to improve, what would you like to see? Research other SUNY’s, group GE categories to keep students from avoiding certain courses.**
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| **New Business** |  | **Pushed to next meeting** |

Respectfully submitted by Emily Quinlan

Approved 10/3/2013