THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO  
GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  

Meeting Minutes  
Friday, November 13, 2015  
2:00 – 3:30 PM • 1607 Moore Humanities and Research Administration Building  


Guests: Jackie Downing, Communication Studies; Lee Phillips, Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office  

AGENDA ITEMS:  

I. Approval of Minutes from September 25, 2015, October 9, 2015, and October 23, 2015.  
   Motion to approve September 25, 2015 minutes (Terranova, Vines). Minutes approved as written.  
   Motion to approve October 9, 2015 minutes (Vines, McCall). Minutes approved as written.  
   Terry Brumfield provided clarification for October 23, 2015 minutes. Motion to approve as amended (Vines, Terranova). Minutes approved as amended.  

II. New Course Proposals—  
   Stephanie advised sub-committee recommends approval of GL Marker for NUR 330 Global Perspectives on the Health of Women. Motion to approve (Vines, Duffy). Motion approved.  
   Suggestion to Nursing, this course could be cross listed with WGS.  
   CTR 201 Introduction to Community Leadership – Requesting GSB category designation  
   Stephanie advised GSB SLOs are embedded into course objectives, GSB SLOs should be separated (remove Leadership language) and SLOs should be stated verbatim, Motion to approve pending changes (Vines, Anderson) Motion approved.  

III. Curriculum Streamlining Report – Continue Discussion  
   Chair provided a draft resolution, revising the composition of the General Education Council, changing Library representative to a voting member of council. Discussion followed, concerning Information Literacy, support of general education courses, and role of ex-officio, non-voting members. Honors College representative is not a voting member, as the Honors College faculty are in other units already and represented through other venues. Motion to approve resolution changing the Libraries representative to a voting member of Council; revise language regarding membership: Eleven (11) voting General faculty members, five (5) from the College, one (1) from each of the other electoral divisions, (excluding JSNN, at their
request). The Chair of the Council will be the sixth member from the College, twelfth member of the Council, and will vote only in the case of a tie. Ex-officio and non-voting members may be appointed by the Provost as needed. (Anderson, Vines) Motion approved.

IV. **Council Chair Election for 2016-17**

Motion to elect David Carlone as Chair of the General Education Council for 2016 – 17 (Vines, Terranova). Motion approved.

V. **Charge to the ad hoc Recertification Committees**

Chair advised the current charge to the Recertification ad hoc committees is to review current SLOs and perhaps revise them, in the spring for fall registration. Three are several items which probably need to be discussed, reviewed, for example, doing more to define what a course would be in a specific category or marker (beyond the SLOs). Could be linking competencies, define levels of proficiency. The Council or ad hoc committees could do this. If the ad hoc committees did this, this would expand the charge of the ad hoc committees. Discussion followed, concerning data from assessment results, before revising SLOs. Need a mechanism for incorporating assessment data. Jodi advised there are SLOs that currently represent Written Communication and Critical Thinking that could be mapped up, but could be written more explicitly representative of Written Communication and Critical Thinking, and what the faculty think Written Communication and Critical Thinking should look like at UNCG. If the committees were to take it on as an explicit role to write the SLOs in the category or have a SLO in the category that addresses Critical Thinking, then we have a more clear association showing evidence of Critical Thinking. Discussion continued, there is no clear definition of Critical Thinking, we need more clarity. We may have the opportunity to provide other evidence of student learning other than results of ETS tests, we need to know what that evidence is going to be. We (UNCG) should define Critical Thinking sooner rather than later. Amy will send sub criteria and Value Rubric to the chairs of the ad hoc committees. We could expand the charge with the next round of recertification. Words (categories) should be defined carefully.

VI. **Undergraduate Research and General Education; linking SLOs with research skills (Lee Phillips)**

Lee Phillips, Director of the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office, advised his office is working toward intentionally integrating research skills into the curriculum. When looking at competency based evaluation and student learning outcomes, the word intentional should be front and center, need to intentionally link SLOs with LGs and with specific competencies, and research skills. Research skills, broken down into four basic levels, (1) students are reading, processing primary research findings or new expressions of scholarship; (2) students are learning about methodologies that are appropriate for their discipline; (3) students practicing the “how to”, put levels one and two in action; (4) students are producing new disciplinary scholarship. How do we prepare students in an intentional and effective way? General Education is weaved throughout the curriculum, needs to be done so in a way that is accountable. Discussion concerning goals of integrating research into general education. The Hart Research Associates reports show that employers want ability to think
critically, ability to solve complex problems, ability to communicate effectively, ability to work with others of different perspectives, in their new hires. Question posed to Lee regarding intention, is the intent to create a research competency in addition to critical thinking and written competencies, or thinking about embedding into one of the other competencies? Lee sees basic research skills as the most important step towards a research competency, it is more important to make the steps toward intentional research skills development. Chapel Hill has an R marker on some courses (RS – Research Skills and RI – Research Intensive). Discussion continued concerning development of consumers or producers of research, research skills in the major. A question for the ad hoc committees could be, what this category should accomplish to help students in their major.

VII. New Business

Jodi provided an update on the testing for the competencies of Written Communication and Critical Thinking. We are committed to testing 100 students in the first two weeks of February and could use a couple more classes, particularly Freshmen.

Aaron posed question regarding general education and where it fits (300 versus 100 level) does the marker mean the same thing at the 300 level as it does at the 100 level.

AAC&U conference is February, 2016. Please let David or Lynn know if you are interested.

Terry repackaged assessment data for recertification committees, the categories are now on the Council website, please let your colleagues know that material is available. Chair thanked Terry for her work on this.

UNC system General Education Council will release a report next Friday concerning assessment.

WI/SI recertification will take place over the next two years. There are 200+ Speaking Intensive courses and 600+ Writing Intensive courses. If you have any thoughts, ideas on how this can work, please let David know.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.
Next meeting is January 15, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.