General Education Council

Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2015
2:00 – 3:30 PM • 1607 Moore Humanities and Research Building

Members present: Anderson, Brown, Brumfield, Carroll, Duffy, Feather, Henline, Kurtts, Pettazzoni, Pubantz, Rychtar, and Zarecki

Guests: Terry Ackerman, Associate Dean, School of Education

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2014. Motion to approve minutes. (Anderson, Feather).
Minutes approved.

II. Recertification of GMT Courses

CSC 110 Computational Problem Solving
MAT 112 Contemporary Topics in Mathematics
MAT 115 College Algebra
MAT 120 Calculus for Business and Social Sciences
MAT 150 Precalculus I
MAT 151 Precalculus II
MAT 190 Precalculus
MAT 191 Calculus I
STA 108 Elementary Introduction to Probability and Statistics

Chair advised GMT recertifications are complete. GMT Recertification subcommittee submitted recommendation to approve CSC 110, MAT 112, MAT 115, MAT 120, MAT 150, MAT 151, MAT 190, MAT 191, and STA 108 for GMT category designation. MAT 120 title is too specific (Calculus for Business and Social Sciences) looks like it is not for all majors, course description states planned primarily for students in the Bryan School and Econ. Discussion followed, both course title and “For Whom Planned” indicate that this course is not designed for all students regardless of major, a requirement that is non-negotiable for General Education courses and is in fact required by our SACS-COC document. The course syllabus seems to be appropriate for all undergraduates. Motion to return MAT 120 to department to revise both the course title and the "For Whom Planned" - remove all language that suggests the course is for a particular subset of the undergraduate population (Anderson, Rychtar). Motion approved. Motion to approve all other GMT courses, CSC 110, MAT 112, MAT 115, MAT 150, MAT 151, MAT 190, MAT 191, and STA 108, (Brown, Carroll). Motion approved.
III. New Course Proposals

CCI 102 The Classical Art of Persuasion, requesting GRD category designation

Pam Brown advised sub-committee recommends approval of GRD. Motion to approved CCI 102 for GRD category designation (Brown, Feather). Motion approved.

IV. System-Wide Assessment of General Education Competencies

Chair introduced Terry Ackerman. Terry is present to provide an overview of the UNC system wide assessment of general education to be piloted in the spring of 2015. GA wants data that will demonstrate that the general education programs are working. The information received from the system wide assessment could be used for programmatic instruction and to determine areas in the general education program which could be improved (critical thinking and writing). Some items to be considered are use of test results, analyses, motivation of students. The students participating in the pilot will receive a letter from the Provost encouraging their participation. GA will create a Technical Advisory Committee to answer any technical or measurement questions as well as orchestrate a research agenda and share the results. Terry encouraged everyone to read the ETS Critical Thinking and Writing white papers. The standardized test will not be just multiple choice. ETS is giving faculty an opportunity to have a voice in this. Participation will assist in determining what type of information we need to improve the general education program. Faculty are strongly encouraged to take the pilot test along with their students. The ETS Assessment Suite is available on their website: www.ets.org/heighten.

Terry Brumfield advised UNCG will test a little under 200 students. Institutional Research provided a sample of 2000 students using fall undergraduate demographics. 500 students were randomly selected out of the 2000. Testing will be in the computer labs. A total of eighteen sessions are set up March 16 – March 28, with two Saturday sessions and two evening sessions. There will be two tests, written communication and critical thinking. Jodi advised GA has asked that no incentives be offered to students for the pilot. All seventeen institutions will participate in the pilot. Students will not receive any scores since this is a pilot. Discussion followed concerning student selection for the pilot, cost and funding, faculty buy in. ETS will score and provide analysis, faculty can provide feedback. ETS has agreed to allow faculty to take the pilot test, we need to identify general education faculty to do this. Any questions or concerns please email Terry Ackerman.
V. Council Workload for Spring 2015

Chair advised GNS recertification will be on a future agenda. Please review the GEC forms; do we need an entire syllabus for recertification? Would it be easier to have a one page form for recertification? How could we best use council time, funding to help with faculty development to create gen ed courses.

Motion to adjourn (Kurtts, Brown).
Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.