**General Education Advisory Council**

Friday, October 20th, 2017

12:00-1:00PM

Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus: U-102

Collier: M-201

**Minutes**

Attendees: Professor Don Ransford, Dr. Rebecca Harris, Dr. Brian Page, Dr. Wendy Chase, Professor Jane Charles, Professor Bill Van Glabek, Professor Erik Fay, Dr. Kelly Roy, Dr. Martin McClinton, Dr. Eileen DeLuca

Absent: Professor Myra Walters, Professor Sindee Karpel

1. The Chair announced that the proposals for the changes to the FSW General Education requirements and program developed during the summer were submitted to the Curriculum Committee dropbox for consideration at the November 3rd meeting.

2. All those in attendance supported adding Dr. Teed, Dean for the School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences to the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC).

3. A memo proposal to be sent to Fernando Mayoral, chair of Speech and Foreign Languages, requesting that American Sign Language (ASL) be added to the FSW College Catalog as an alternative for students in fulfilling the foreign language requirement was approved by those in attendance. Dr. McClinton cited that there was a very popular ASL program at a previous institution where he had been employed. The question was raised as to how easily the institution would be able to find instructors for the courses. Members suggested there might be a need to accept and justify alternative certification as credentials for teaching in the ASL courses. The planned sequence of action would begin with the Speech and Foreign Languages faculty proposing the courses to the Curriculum Committee. If the courses are approved, then the General Education Advisory Council would move forward with a recommendation to the Curriculum Committee for adding ASL as an alternative for meeting the foreign language requirement at FSW after vetting the recommendation through the Faculty Senate.

4. Whitney Rhyne, Director of Strategic Initiatives, has been assigned to help with academic endeavors which will now include the College’s *One Book – One College* program. Since this event is affecting the entire College and will hopefully draw community attention and participation, it was mentioned that it may attract donors and possibly qualify for a Foundation Educational Excellence (FEE) grant. Dr. Harris plans to chat with Ms. Rhyne before the November meeting. Dr. McClinton suggested adding Beartown to the text suggestion list. The list will be narrowed down to 3 books for the November meeting to have faculty vote.

5. Dr. Bruno Baltadano is serving as a representative from FSW on the state committee devising a solution as to how the new Civics Literacy mandated by the Florida legislature may be met. The state committee was advocating for a zero credit module to fulfill the requirement, but news received from Dr. Baltadano while our GEAC meeting was taking place revealed that it may result in a different approach.

6. The Chair suggested that the Council review how FSW designates courses as general education, oral communication, writing intensive, international or diversity focus, etc. After some productive discussion, the GEAC made a plan to develop criteria for each designation followed by the normal vetting process. Faculty from relevant subject areas and disciplines will be invited to collaborate in this work. Follow-up discussion included topics such as aligning general education courses with our general education mission at the college, possibly including one integral and one supplemental competency, pathways or learning communities (models elsewhere), developing a schedule for re-evaluating classes already designated as general education or any of the other categories. The GEAC will act as advisors to faculty and disciplines as they review existing courses and as new courses are proposed to the Curriculum Committee. As a result of this process, some competencies and outcomes may need to be rethought.

7. For the November meeting, Council members were asked to research examples of pathways and/or intentional learning communities already being used at other institutions of higher learning.

8. A discussion of marketing the general education program was tabled until the November meeting.