

General Education Advisory Council

Friday, January 21, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ZOOM Meeting: <https://fsw.zoom.us/j/84297808639>

Present – Don Ransford, Martin McClinton, Deborah Teed, George Manacheril, Andrae Jones, Angus Cameron, Colleen Moore, Jamie Votraw, Joyce Rollins, Mary Schultz, Monica Krupinski, Randy Moffett, Rebecca Harris, Steven Chase, Suzanne Biedenbach, Timothy Bishop, William Van Glabek, Dani Peterson, Brandon Jett

Minutes

I. The approval of the October and the November minutes will be deferred to the February meeting.

II. Information Items

- A. Dr. Rebecca Harris gave an update on the CREATIVE Capstone courses. There are sections of the capstone courses being taught on the Lee, Hendry Glades, and Charlotte campus. There will be five sections in the fall semester. Next academic year, the collegiate high school students will be the first cohort that will be required to take the capstone course. Professional development for the faculty members who will teach in the fall has started and is going well.
- B. Professor Don Ransford gave an update on the Flex model for the General Education Program for A.A. degrees. Ransford submitted a proposal for this model to the Curriculum Committee. The proposal is moving through Curriculog, but, there have been some questions about how to move this through the system. This model will also be presented to Faculty Senate for review. It is intended that this model will go into effect in the fall of 2022.

III. Action Items

- A. Dr. Brandon Jett was invited to give an update on the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Initiative. Jett presented the revised definitions for the two designations (International and Diversity). Jett mentioned that the definitions have been presented at the IDEA committee, previously at the General Education Advisory Council, and they have the support of

the Provost. The next step of the process is to gain the General Education Advisory Council approval, and then be presented at Faculty Senate. Here are the definitions:

- a. Diversity: “Classes assigned the Diversity designation should emphasize the experience of traditionally marginalized people in the United States and around the world with a focus on the setbacks faced, triumphs achieved, and contributions made by those groups culturally, politically, scientifically, and economically.”
 - b. International: “Classes assigned the International designation should provide students with a better understanding of the interconnectedness of the wider world socio-economically, different global cultures and languages, global scientific developments, or international relations.”
 - i. Questions were raised about the effects that these designations will have on transferability. Because these designations are not part of SCNS, they should not negatively affect students.
 - ii. Members gave suggestions about possible word changes to include more fields of study in these definitions.
 - iii. Questions were asked about what happens after these new designations are instituted. Faculty with courses that have the current designations would be able to choose either I, or D, or both I and D designations. The new designations may have possible effects on the Curriculog process, but that can be resolved at a later date.
 - c. The General Education Advisory Council approves of these designations. There was no dissent. The Council approves of Jett continuing in this process.
- B. Dr. Martin McClinton spoke about making the locked-down portions of the syllabi more accessible. McClinton showed an example of how to do this with a database format. Here is a summary of the discussion that followed.

- a. Some members expressed confusion about reading the information in the database format. (McClinton showed another example that the members found easier to understand.)
- b. Some members expressed concerns about the formatting in the syllabi.
- c. A larger conversation began about how faculty think about listing outcomes on syllabi. The concern was expressed about how some faculty view outcome as a checklist of assignments, rather than the distillation of what students are meant to learn in the course. The question remained, would creating a database format now exacerbate the problems of distinguishing between Competencies, Outcomes, Objectives, and Assessments later?
- d. McClinton mentioned that this could be a two-year process, and this is a good start to this conversation.
- e. No action was taken on this topic.

IV. New Business

- A. Professor Ransford mentioned that one of the goals of the General Education Advisory Council at the beginning of the academic year was to go through the current courses that carry the general education designation and see if they still meet the general education criteria.
- B. Professor Ransford mentioned that it may be important to review the mission statement of the General Education Advisory Council to make sure that we are completing those objectives.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.