Friday, September 19th, 2025   
10:00 – 11:30 AM  
<https://fsw.zoom.us/j/81809684012> Meeting ID: 818 0968 4012

Members Present: Jamie Votraw, Alex Schimel, Kenneth Belcher, Mary Schultz, Randy Moffett, Rebecca Harris, Suzanne Biedenbach, Brian Page, Steve Chase, Cara Minardi Power, Elizabeth Schott, Joyce Rollins, Esmaeel Samaliazad, Joel Reinking

1. The meeting was called to order at 10 am.
2. The minutes from Friday, April 18th, 2025, were reviewed and approved.
3. GEAC Co-Chair Volunteer
   1. Professor Votraw requested that committee members consider volunteering for the role of Co-Chair to support committee efficiency and accuracy, particularly with respect to meeting minutes.
4. Opening for a New Humanities and Curriculum Committee Representative
   1. Professor Votraw announced that there is an opening for a humanities faculty representative.
   2. Esmaeel Samaliazad agreed to provide updates on behalf of the curriculum committee.
5. Review April Discussion on Goals for 2025-2026
   1. Professor Votraw summarized potential goals for the upcoming academic year that were identified at the April committee meeting and sought feedback from the committee about goal priorities.
      1. Increase alignment between lower-level and upper-level gen ed courses.
         1. Dr. Harris noted that this initiative requires a very structured approach to ensure collegiality.
         2. Dr. Rollins said alignment is important for colleagues and students. For example, education students need to pass a competency test, and Professor Ransford coordinated with the education department to help improve students’ math scores. Dr. Rollins suggested starting with an informational approach, such as PD, to help identify needs and opportunities.
         3. Dr. Minardi Power noted that Professor Cid (LAC, Chair) has discussed an interest in inter-committee meetings.
         4. Professor Ransford suggested looking at alignment from DE through BA (as opposed to only AA/AS to BA). He suggested a meeting with the H.S. teachers to learn more about their observations and needs.
         5. Dr. Schott informed the committee that there is a new state law that permits the passage of a certain test in H.S. to count as a college math class (MAC 1105), which may impact needs. This alternative option will potentially compete with AP courses.
      2. Increase interdisciplinary connections/create learning communities.
         1. Professor Votraw suggested that the goals for increasing interdisciplinary connections and creating learning communities be combined. She sought feedback from the committee.
         2. Dr. Biedenbach emphasized the importance of starting small and being open to various definitions of learning communities.
         3. Professor Votraw suggested creating a survey to gauge faculty interest in creating learning communities and/or connections such as course pairings.
            1. The council agreed this would be a good starting place.
            2. Professor Ransford suggested including a video or resource that helps clarify what is meant by “learning community.”
            3. Professor Votraw agreed to develop the survey.
      3. Develop a process for student portfolios.
         1. The council discussed the potential for students to use Canvas as a platform for portfolios.
         2. Dr. Schott suggested consulting Dr. Jester and Dr. O’Connor.
            1. Professor Ransford suggested asking about the different Canvas course options for student portfolios (e.g., an ongoing Canvas course, self-enrollment, open enrollment, etc.)
            2. Professor Votraw agreed to contact them for information.
6. Professional Development
   1. Professor Votraw explained that Dr. McClinton requested that academic standing committees do professional development this year. He suggested a writing across curriculum PD and/or a reading across curriculum PD for GEAC.
      1. Dr. Harris pointed out that the only class to add a WI designation since the WI expansion is philosophy.
      2. Director Schimel noted there has previously been pushback from FGCU about upper-level WI courses. He asked if they could potentially deny our WI for transfer.
         1. Dr. Harris explained that the statute states that they can’t make a student retake a gen ed.
      3. Dr. Page suggested a Community of Practice – focus on best practices for writing and hold a live session to share and gather instructional approaches.
         1. The group discussed and decided to start with a community of practice, rather than formal professional development.
         2. The council agreed to organize a live session on a future PD Friday to allow faculty from different disciplines to share their approaches to writing instruction.
      4. Dr. Minardi Power emphasized that writing-intensive courses don’t require major course overhauls but involve "tweaks" to incorporate writing effectively across disciplines.
      5. Dr. Schott noted that online courses already involve significant writing through discussion boards, and therefore, writing practices should be discussed in general as well.
         1. Professor Chase agreed.
      6. Dr. Samaliazad expressed concerns about implementing WI in his science courses due to student complaints about workload.
         1. Professor Votraw noted that writing-intensive courses vary across disciplines and proposed using a writing-intensive checklist from GEAC as a guideline.
         2. The discussion highlighted the need for alternative writing assignments that align with course content, particularly for disciplines where traditional research papers may not be feasible.
         3. The group discussed the distinction between writing-intensive courses and writing across the curriculum.
         4. Dr. Minardi Power pointed out that writing-intensive courses can take various forms beyond traditional research papers and emphasized the importance of flexible guidelines.
      7. The committee settle on starting with an open forum focused on best practices in writing.
7. Committee–Department Updates
   1. English (Suzanne Biedenbach, Cara Minardi Power)
      1. English faculty are working to improve the LIT 2000 master shell, as well as reviewing their CLOs and adding information about AI guidance.
   2. Communication & Foreign Language (Jamie Votraw)
      1. Professor Votraw and Dr. O’Connor are working with Drs. Summary and Page to develop a new A.S. degree, Emerging Media Communication. They are slated to develop five new courses for the degree program.
   3. Humanities & Fine Arts (Steve Chase)
      1. The department has currently moved out of the L building due to renovations.
   4. Library Science (Tony Valenti) – Excused, no update.
   5. Mathematics (Don Ransford)
      1. The department is examining how to use AI to help students, as well as determining what policy changes need to be implemented to manage AI-related challenges (e.g., a new calculator policy).
   6. Natural Sciences (Esmaeel Samaliazad)
      1. The department is reviewing the best ways to manage student misconduct, as well as working to update its common course assessment.
   7. Social Sciences / Economics (Randy Moffett; Joel Reinking)
      1. The department is focused on the implementation of changes from the previous calendar year.
   8. Academic Success (Mary Ellen Schultz)
      1. A new version of SLS is currently being piloted, with a potential full rollout in Fall 2026.
   9. Academic Advising (Alex Schimel)
      1. Enrollment up significantly. Academic advising is working to accommodate the increased demand while coordinating with university partners on prerequisite requirements to ensure students are completing the AA/AS degrees in full before transferring.
8. Announcements
   1. Dr. Harris Rebecca announced upcoming curriculum-related professional development sessions, including the use of Boodlebots for designing assessments.
9. Adjournment
   1. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.