**General Education Advisory Council**

Friday, September 16th, 2016

12:00-1:00PM

Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus: A-168

Collier: M-120A

**Minutes**

Attendees: Professor Don Ransford, Dr. Rebecca Harris, Dr. Brian Page, Dr. Wendy Chase, Professor Jane Charles, Dr. Amy Trogan, Professor Bill Van Glabek, Dr. Myra Walters, Professor Marcela Trevino, Professor Sindee Karpel

Absent: Dr. Eileen Deluca, Professor Kelly Roy

1. Professor Don Ransford agreed to accept the nomination to continue as the chair of the newly named General Education Advisory Council. The committee charge documents were approved through Faculty Senate.

2. New committee members were introduced and welcomed which was followed by a discussion of the purpose of the committee. The committee examines and reviews General Education as a program at FSW and works with the other standing committees along with the Faculty Senate in ways and means of implementing and assessing that program.

3. Facilitators from the *Meeting of the Minds* workshops discussed their sessions.

-Professor Ransford and Dr. Page reported success at their sessions, as did Professor Charles and Dr. Chase.

-Professor Walters mentioned Dr. Stewart’s and Dr. Deluca’s renewed commitment to faculty development.

-The committee discussed the success of having lunch at the workshops.

-The group affirmed the need to continue reminding faculty that they do not have to complete everything in the extended definition, but rather are contributing to the student’s achievement of those goals.

-The committee discussed the need to start a dialogue about research in general education with the entire faculty.

4. The committee was reminded that the deadline to submit the worksheets for Roman Numeral IV is October 21st.

5. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

6. Professor Ransford opened the floor to discuss the future goals of the committee.

 -We will take a final look at the language in the competencies to make any final edits. Dr.

Harris will send around the Google Doc link to everyone through Professor Ransford.

-The committee wants to continue holding the *Meeting of the Mind*s sessions as they are

working and they give us the opportunity to continue to discuss the general education mission and ethos.

-At this point, we are planning for a short update and presentation at the Spring Duty Days.

-The committee hopes to start a repository of good practices, including lesson ideas and assessments that we could make available to the faculty.

-The committee will continue to focus on raising awareness about general education and getting buy-in from all stakeholders.

-The committee wants to focus on “CREATIVE” and “creativity” this year, both in terms of what we are doing in the classroom and what we are doing as faculty and staff for professional development.

-This year the committee will work on the “big picture” general education philosophy and begin to take a look at the program, with an eye towards our focus on creativity and transdisciplinarity.

-Dr. Chase describes the “crash course” model being pioneered in the Honors program as an example of transdisciplinary work among faculty.

-The Honors program will also be doing a *difficult dialogues* series across a number of disciplines.

-The committee discussed the idea of a capstone course to the general education program.

-The committee discussed how to do more interdisciplinary professional development.

7. The committee discussed the addition of American Sign Language as a potential fulfillment of the foreign language requirement for students. All comments seemed to be in favor of pursuing this option.