

# General Education Program Review Ad Hoc Committee

Friday, June 26, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus: U-202B

Collier Campus: G-109

## Minutes

**Attendees:** Dr. Eileen DeLuca, Dr. Rebecca Harris, Dr. Brian Page, Professor Don Ransford, Dr. Lisa McGarity

**Absent:** Professor Jane Charles, Dr. Wendy Chase, Dr. Amy Trogan

Approval of the minutes from the June 12, 2015, meeting were postponed until the July 8, 2015, meeting.

The Chair notified committee members that he had met with Dr. Wright with the purpose of submitting a memo requesting a stipend of \$400 per committee member for their work during the summer months. Dr. Wright is taking this matter under consideration. During that meeting, Dr. Wright also mentioned his desire for a representative of the committee to provide an update of the progress of the committee during his allotted time at duty days in the fall. The Chair volunteered to act as the representative if the committee agrees.

The committee began a discussion of the General Education Philosophy and Competencies in response to documents developed by Professor Charles as promised from the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and other suggestions made electronically by committee members prior to the meeting.

Dr. McGarity's research concerning *Science Literacy versus Science and Technology Literacy* was acknowledged and discussed. The need for the inclusion of technology was recognized which was followed by the suggestion to include it as an outcome in the faculty working document.

Dr. Harris was provided the opportunity to clarify her suggested addition of *Academic* to *Research and Information Literacy*. However, no final decision was made with respect to the change.

A sequence of events took place based on a question concerning the number of competencies. Did the committee members feel that ten competencies could possibly increase the workload for faculty and the Assessment Committee?

In response to the concern for the number of competencies being too many and increasing the workload or too few and possibly being too broad, one committee member noted that it was not,

perhaps, the quantity of competencies, but rather the quality (i.e., Depth should likely prevail over breadth.).

Committee members who were present participated in an activity of mapping the ten literacies provided by Professor Charles prior to the meeting onto the eight competencies provided in Dr. Page's submission from an earlier meeting utilizing the acrostic *CREATIVE*. As a result, those present felt the eight competencies should be sufficient for our starting point. Dr. Harris volunteered to work on updating the mission and competencies from Dr. Page's document based on suggestions and discussions that have taken place to this point.

A discussion took place in reference to a reasonable timeline for completion and implementation of the work of the committee. This spawned some suggested methods for implementation and the likelihood for the necessity of a committee to continue monitoring the program and providing professional development to faculty with respect to the general education program.

Committee members once again shared their excitement with the prospect of moving from a course-based to a program-based model of a general education program. This should lend itself much more easily to mapping courses with general education competencies and better ensure that the College is providing a broad-based learning experience for its students that aligns with the College's general education mission.

As a means of forward-thinking and based on comments from this and previous meetings, Dr. DeLuca volunteered to gather examples of the approval process for general education courses at other institutions for the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.