**General Education Advisory Council**

*Friday, January 19th, 2024*

10:00 pm – 11:30 pm

MINUTES

Recorded by: Jamie Votraw

Attendance:

Dani Peterson, Steve Chase, Rebecca Harris, Randy Moffett, Mary Schultz, Don Ransford, Elijah Pritchett, Alex Schimel, Cara Minardi Power, Jamie Votraw, Suzanne Biedenbach, Esmaeel Samaliazad, Kenneth Belcher, Martin McClinton, Joel Reinking, Elizabeth Schott, Joyce Rollins

1. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting (November 17th, 2023)
	1. The minutes were approved.
2. Information Items
	1. Upcoming GEAC meetings: February 16, March 22\*, April 19
		1. We will decide at the February meeting if we should reschedule the March meeting for the last Friday in March due to the spring break.
	2. GEAC Chair position/election
		1. We will confirm the Chair nomination procedures, but we should keep this in mind as it will be an upcoming task for the committee.
		2. Professor Peterson encouraged members to make nominations, and she also offered to renew her position as Chair.
3. Actions Items
	1. Review new course proposal with General Education designation: GLY 1070C Living on Water Planet
		1. GLY 1070C is on the Curriculum Committee agenda for its January 19th meeting (today).
		2. Dr. Harris explained that this is a geology course that can serve as a general education core course.
		3. Dr. Schott explained that students can take either geology or earth science as a first course, and then take this new course as the second course in the sequence.
		4. Director Schimel said that from an advising perspective, more classes like GLY 1070C are needed. However, he noted that after a meeting with FGCU, it was confirmed that this course will not serve as a pre-requisite for many transferring programs that are considered by students following this career path. Since students do not typically have the room for this course when on that pathway, he offered a word of caution that students following this path will need to be careful not to take this course over the prerequisite courses they must take to transfer with junior status.
		5. Professor Ransford expressed that it doesn’t seem like providing this course a general education designation will be problem.
		6. Dr. Schott reiterated that Geology 1010 is a core course, and the two direct pre-requisites are core courses.
		7. Professor Ransford confirmed with Director Schimel – if a student takes GLY 1070C and becomes excited about marine biology, they will have to either backtrack to complete “missed” pre-requisite courses and/or transfer into a program, like the water school at FGCU, without junior status. For this reason, Director Schimel encourages faculty teaching GLY 1070C to be made aware of this situation.
		8. Professor Ransford made a motion to support, and Professor Moffett seconded.
		9. The committee voted unanimously in favor.
	2. Discussion of upcoming changes to gen ed core classes and general education (regarding SB 266 / Florida Core Gen Ed Classes)
		1. Dr. Harris led a discussion explaining the changes made by the state curriculum committees and DOE. The entities have met and officially voted on the new state general education core list. Then, Dr. Harris shared a list of the changes will affect FSW’s general education program guide. The changes include:
			1. No changes to the comp/comm core (ENC 1101).
			2. The inclusion of ENC 2210 as a general education course for the ENC two-course sequence.
				1. Dr. Harris noted – from an advising perspective, seats in this course will be somewhat limited.
			3. No changes to the HUM core.
			4. The inclusion of AMH 2010 as an SS core class.
				1. AMH 2010 will satisfy the civic literacy requirement.
			5. Principles of Sociology, SYG 1000, was removed from the list of state core courses.
				1. SYG 1000 is still a general education course at FSW, but it will not fulfill the core requirement.
			6. MGF 1106 and MGF 1107 are coming out of the core and being replaced with MGF 1130.
			7. MGF 1131 is added as an additional math general education course.
			8. GLY 1010C and OCE 1001 are now added to the core course list.
			9. The only other AA programmatic changes include:
				1. Updating what counts as civic literacy,
				2. Cornerstone and Capstone are looking to remove the ‘C’ or better requirement for graduation. Students will still need a D because they must pass the class for credit, but a C won’t be needed.
				3. Professor Ransford asked if there was ever consideration of adopting a pass/fail grading system for cornerstone and/or capstone.

Dr. Harris said that she’s not aware of that, but the cornerstone and capstone courses are usually passable for students if they submit the required work.

* + - * 1. Dr. McClinton said the ‘C’ requirement from the state-side is generally just for English and Math.
		1. The changes listed above will be effective Fall 2024.
		2. Dr. Harris noted that some of the course descriptions were updated, so FSW will have to update the language in the catalog and in simple syllabus to reflect some minor wording changes. The process for making these changes is TBD.
			1. Dr. Pritchett asked Dr. Harris if there were any substantive changes to the descriptions/CLOs? Dr. Harris said the civic literacy wording is a little more pointed, but not substantially different. She explained that the language uses wording such as “including, but not limited to” which means there are some noted requirements, but not exclusions, per se.
	1. Following up on the Writing Intensive discussion
		1. How would the council like to get feedback from the faculty? (Ask for time at the Faculty Senate meeting? Have a PD workshop through the CTLE? Email the faculty a survey?)
		2. Professor Peterson asked the committee what the next steps should be for advancing the WI discussion: Should we ask for time at the faculty senate, send a survey, or conduct a PD workshop?
		3. Professor Ransford suggested that during the February GEAC meeting or PD Friday, we invite chairs and other relevant faculty to hold a discussion. This would give a small group of people vested in this topic consideration and would provide GEAC guidance on the matter.
		4. Dr. Pritchett agreed with Professor Ransford and urged for live conversation over a survey.
			1. Professor Ransford suggested holding the small group meeting before addressing the faculty senate.
		5. Professor Moffett noted that he already met with the SS faculty and there wasn’t any serious pushback. He also previously invited them to attend GEAC to address this topic, but there wasn’t any overt concern about this proposal (which generally relates to the history faculty).
		6. Dr. Schott suggested bringing this topic to the shared governance committee.
			1. Professor Votraw pointed out that the next shared governance is meeting is after the February GEAC meeting.
			2. Professor Ransford suggested we still share it with shared governance in February, and GEAC can make the final decision after the February meeting (March/April).
		7. Professor Moffett asked if we are trying to finalize this in time for the Fall 2024 semester. If so, he pointed out that we need to have time to submit catalog changes and courses need time to submit curriculum changes.
			1. Professor Minardi Power pointed out that if some faculty will need PD about WI, making the decision earlier doesn’t seem possible.
			2. Dr. Harris explained that there is only one sentence in the catalog, so that will not be a problem to change. However, for any faculty wishing to change a course to WI, they need to submit a proposal to the curriculum committee. Since we are already past the cutoff, changes will take place in 2025.
			3. Professor Ransford clarified that if GEAC makes a decision this term, faculty could start doing the course change paperwork in Fall 2024 to be effective in Spring 2025.
			4. Dr. McClinton commented that he prefers thoughtful, deliberate conversation before implementing a change.
			5. Dr. Harris explained that since we’re looking at Fall 2025 either way.
				1. Professor Ransford urged GEAC to make a decision this semester, so changes can be made on this timeline.
		8. Professor Peterson concluded that we would get the information out to the faculty and dedicate the first hour of the February GEAC meeting for discussion. She will announce the proposal at faculty senate, explain that the first hour of the next meeting will be set aside for department chairs and key players to join and deliberate with GEAC about the proposal.
		9. Professor Peterson reminded the committee that we discussed creating a GEAC toolkit last fall that would serve as a resource for sharing GEAC information with the college community. Professor Peterson has requested a Canvas shell to start the GEAC toolkit project.
1. Reports/Updates from departments or committees
	1. Dr. Harris – Everyone is invited to the Curriculum Committee meeting today (1/19) at 1 pm.
	2. Dr. Harris – Two upcoming events:
		1. Dr. Lu Vickers on January 25th at 2 pm on the Lee Campus, Room J-103;
		2. FGCU has started a partnership with FSW to get FSW students in their transfer programs. FGCU has invited FSW to their FGCU Scholar Series on serial killers on January 31st at 11:30 am in the Library West 1st Floor.
	3. Professor Ransford is collecting event-related ideas to support the new OTOC theme, “Our Changing Worlds”.
2. New Business
	1. NA

***Upcoming Meetings:***

February 16

March 22\*

April 19