UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

General Education Council

Minutes for October 2, 2017

PRESENT: Andy Berish (CAS), Scott Besley (MCOB), Kyna Betancourt (Chair), Jolyn Blank (COEDU), Bill Haley (BCS), Michael Decker (CAS), Ivonne Hernandez (CON), Chung Seop Jeong (COENG), Matt Knight (LIB), Alexander Levine (CAS), Tom Mason (COPH), Cynthia Patterson (CAS), Marc Powers (COTA), Joshua Rayman (CAS), Laura Runge (CAS), Zhimin Shi (CAS), Barbara Shircliffe (COEDU), Razvan Teodorescu (CAS), Wally Wilson (COTA), Nora Wood (LIB)

ABSENT: Chad Michaels (MCOB)

GUESTS/EX-OFFICIO: Shawn Bingham (HON), Peter Cannon (CAS), James Cavendish (SOC), Michael Cross (UGS-OUR), Chandra Davis (UGS), Mazi Ferguson (OCEP), Sommer Mitchell (GCP), Diane Price-Herndl (CAS), Geoffrey Potts (CAS), Allison Cleveland-Roberts (CAS), Kevin Yee (UGS)

1. Approval of Minutes from September 25th, 2017 – Approved, 1 abstention
2. New Business
   a. Discussion of SLO’s
      i. Information Literacy
         1. Motion was made and seconded to adopt the current SLO’s as shown with minor changes:
            a. Remove crossed out areas and add them as three and seven for a total of seven SLO’s
            b. Remove parenthetical phrases – delete TRAAP test
         2. Discussion before voting
            a. Some council members would like to keep all SLO lists at five for the sake of consistency
            b. Others questioned the rationale of choosing an arbitrary number. If we want seven SLO’s, why not just have seven?
            c. Having all seven SLO’s would allow for any “kind” of course to participate in Information Literacy (i.e., numeracy courses and non-numeracy courses)
            d. The question of how much of a course would need to cover gen ed SLO’s was started but council decided to have that conversation at a different time.
            e. A friendly amendment was proposed, and accepted, to change the language for the third SLO to “revise submitted coursework”
         3. Vote was taken. Motion passed with one abstention
   b. Inclusion of required SLO’s?
      i. Motion was made and seconded to remove from the table a motion proposed on 8/21/17 that we remove the required SLO – Motion passed unanimously
      ii. Motion (with second) to remove required SLO. Discussion followed:
          1. Requiring one SLO is limiting; faculty can have more flexibility if they can choose two
          2. There are some areas where one SLO seems fundamental (i.e., Information Literacy); could we at least indicate which SLO is recommended?
             a. If a faculty member does not choose a recommended SLO, then s/he would have to tell us why (e.g., s/he will cover the skill in the SLO in a different manner)
             b. Does “recommended” make faculty think that choosing it means they have a better chance of getting the course approved?
             c. Best Practice Subgroups can work on explaining recommended SLO and publishing rationale to faculty
      iii. Vote was taken. Motion passed with 13 votes in favor, 1 vote opposing, and 1 abstention.
   c. How to assess General Education requirements
i. Suggestions for assessment
   1. Ask faculty to identify an assignment that will assess all general education requirements (i.e., SLOs, Critical & Analytical Thinking, Problem Solving). Assignment must be uploaded in Canvas.
   2. GEC could look at other sources of data (e.g., enrollment, numerical course evaluations, etc.)
   3. We could add a question on rigor to course evaluations
      a. Doesn’t this already exist?
      b. Faculty Senate considering revising questions on course evaluations

ii. Important that assessment isn’t punitive or aggressive. We should share data with faculty for course improvement. Should we just ask faculty to send us the assignments? Is there concern with a “super user” in Canvas just grabbing designated assignments?
   1. We don’t want to have to be begging faculty for assignments

iii. Following proposal was made and agreed to:
   1. Faculty will indicate two assignments that they are using to assess all general education requirements. These assignments will need to be tagged in a specific way (e.g., #GE1) so that a computer code can be written to go in and download all student submissions for the two assignments.
   2. GEC will take a stratified (by college) random sample of assignments and assess general education requirements via a standardized rubric.
   3. Since GEC will now spend more time on assessment, we should designate a period of the year where we will do course approvals and a period where we will do assessment.

   d. Creating Best Practice Sub-groups – Tabled until next meeting
   e. Motion to adjourn made and seconded- **Passed unanimously**; meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm