General Education Council
Minutes: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 Meeting
7:30-9:00 a.m.
Nessmith Lane Building, Room 1909

Present: H. Altman, A. Boyett, E. Brooks, M. Caithorn, E. Edwards, J. Langdon, B. Lee


Committee Charge
Dr. Bartels began by thanking everyone for agreeing to serve on the General Education Council. She then presented an overview of the newly formed council’s responsibilities, which will include

- Providing oversight of the delivery of General Education content
- Enhancing campus understanding and delivery of General Education content
- Overseeing assessment of General Education for program improvement
- Responding to institutional report requests
- Establishing and communicating policies and practices for the oversight of General Education
- Recommending changes to the current General Education program

She then offered a definition of General Education and the University’s need to make General Education a coherent and intentional process at the University.

General Education and Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Bartels called upon Dr. Stephen Zerwas, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness, for input into his office’s role.

Stephen explained that the Office of Institutional Effectiveness is in place to facilitate the work of General Education council. He gave a brief overview of what is needed for an effective General Education program and how assessment of that program might work. He added that an assessment workshop had been funded and was being planned for the summer. He introduced Dr. Ellen Hendrix, the General Education Coordinator for Institutional Effectiveness and her work to date.

Ellen noted that she has set up a sharepoint site1, which the council will use to facilitate communication. She also noted that some general education assessment that has been planned or is currently underway:

- Math – imbedded questions in all A2 math course final exams
- Economics – Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal
- Science – Madison Assessments, Scientific Reasoning
- Writing – meaningful sampling of final ENGL 1102 writing products

Committee Chair
Dr. Bartels then asked if anyone was willing to chair the General Education Council. No one responded. Stephen suggested that forming sub-committees on Oversight, Policy and Procedures, and Assessment might be a way to begin. Several people expressed interest in serving on the sub-committees.
Dr. Caren Town suggested that the Council’s effectiveness and its charge might be difficult given that the Faculty Senate has had no input on the council’s make up or the council’s relationship to the senate. She suggested that seeking senate feedback might make the council’s work easier and faculty’s service on the committee less contentious.

Dr. Bartels agreed and added that she would be attending Faculty Senate that afternoon. She added that she would address questions about the council and help frame its need and role.

Dr. John O’Malley asked if a list of sub-committee volunteers could be circulated prior to the next meeting. Dr. Bartels recommended that the council members have more time to consider the council’s charge before moving forward with sub-committees.

She suggested a second full-council meeting for next week so that further discussion could take place. The council agreed to meet again in one week; Dr. Bartels said that she would make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 7:30-9:00 a.m., TBA

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1https://sharepoint.georgiasouthern.edu/VPAA/oie/gec/default.aspx