
Jake welcomed everyone and asked for reports from each of the three subcommittees.

Policies, Procedures & Communications Subcommittee (PPCS) report:

Had nothing to report as a committee.

Jake noted that he had found more past work on general education at Georgia Southern and will follow up on those findings so that we can avoid duplication and work with what has already been done.

Curriculum Subcommittee (CS) report:

Had met on June 8th and formulated three questions that need to be answered:

- What is the purpose of general education?
- What is the difference between the core curriculum and general education?
- Who is responsible for general education delivery?

John O’Malley mentioned research he has been doing on the history of general education assessment beginning in the late 70’s and expressed concern about how far behind we are. He added that he had found some exemplars that might help us as an institution as we ask ourselves what we want our students to know and accomplish through their general education courses. He had sent some information out to the curriculum subcommittee and asked Ellen to forward the information to the whole council.

Lisa reported that she and Hani had been looking at the differences and relationships between the core curriculum and general education and that she would be sending out information soon. Their focus has been on drafting a statement clarifying who we see our students to be.

Kathy added that curriculum forms need to work with our general education framework and that oversight can become part of program review and part of the undergraduate committee’s purpose.

Jake added that there has been no general education reform even though there have been previous general education initiatives, which seem to have been in reaction to SACS. He added that the initiatives have not been sustained.

Assessment Subcommittee (AS) report:

Fred reported that the assessment subcommittee meets regularly and has been having interesting discussions about the different genres of writing and working on a rubric for assessing writing. He added that the assessment work this summer will look at over 300 writing samples that have been collected from ENGL 1102 students.
Jake asked how the rubric related to the core outcomes recently approved by the Board of Regents. Ellen responded that the draft rubric incorporated those outcomes, as well as the general education outcomes approved during semester conversion. She had worked on the draft rubric with Randall McClure, chair of the Writing and Linguistics Department. The subcommittee’s challenge has been to tweak the competencies to work with the many different types of writing that included in the sample. While the initial goal was to create a rubric that could be used in various courses with effective communication listed as an outcome, the subcommittee has since realized that one rubric is not feasible even within first-year writing. She added that healthy discussion during the August assessment might prove useful as the General Education Council moves forward.

Additional Information:

Jake asked if the 5th year report to SACS was available to faculty, adding that our knowing what was reported might prove helpful to the council. Kathy stated that the report was linked to the Provost’s website, and Ellen stated that she would send that link to the committee.

Ellen reported that two candidates for the Director of Academic Assessment position would be visiting campus and asked General Education Council members to attend their presentations. She noted that she would send out their schedules via email and would also make their CV’s available in sharepoint.

Ellen also noted that the results of the Madison Scientific Reasoning assessment had been reported to the faculty who encouraged their students to participate and individual scores had been reported to all students who participated. She would be asking faculty in the sciences to help in making meaning of the raw data.

John O’Malley reported that he had recently attended a webinar focused on academically adrift students and thought the General Education Council might find the interesting. He added that he would see if he could find a link.

Jake concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for the progress we have made to date.