General Education Council Minutes  
Date: 2/27/12  
Meeting Location: JCK 880  


Visitors: John Fleming and Beth Wuest  

Discussion and Actions:  
1. Council members and visitors briefly introduced themselves.  
2. Jackie Moczygemba volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.  
3. A motion was made and seconded to approve the GEC minutes of 2/13/12 with two corrections. The motion passed unanimously.  
4. Dr. Ron Brown distributed a memorandum dated February 27, 2012 from Provost Bourgeois. The subject matter of the memo is a charge and timeline to the General Education Council for making recommendations regarding the review and revision of Texas’ General Education Core Curriculum (GECC). Specifically stated, the Texas State GECC must be compliant with both Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the new State of Texas expectations.  
5. After review of the memo, council members engaged in a lengthy discussion and raised several questions. Dr. M. Houser asked about the core objective of “teamwork”. Is teamwork supposed to be taught in the course or assessed? Is it both? Beth Wuest responded that she is going to a meeting next week and will try to provide further clarification and feedback to the council. She also mentioned that there is a webinar planned in April to address the revision of Texas’ GECC and the core objectives required. Ron Brown stated that with Beth’s help we will continue to search for interpretation of how to assess the six core objectives for component courses.  
6. Dr. John Fleming acknowledged the expectation of fine arts courses to include assessment of four core objectives: critical thinking, communication, teamwork and social responsibility. He cited as an example Comm 1310 currently assesses about 10 pages of written communication. The new mandate states that communication courses involve the command of oral, aural, written and visual skills. Again, Beth Wuest will ask about these four dimensions in her upcoming meetings. Furthermore, Dr. Phil Suckling asked, “what do we do with large classes”?  

Dr. B. Stone suggested we start with a new slate. Each college would propose their courses to meet the component areas. Dr. Brown stated that the Provost discouraged revamping.
Dr. John Fleming discussed the 120 hour degree requirement for Fall 2014. He asked the council about the possibility of substituting a General Education core curriculum course with an upper division course, History of Musical Theater in order to meet the 120 hour requirement. Dr. P. Suckling suggested preparing a formal proposal and also putting a prerequisite on the course.

Council members then returned back to the discussion of item #5, the THECB mandated 42 hour core curriculum to be implemented in Fall 2014. Beth Wuest shared the following comments after returning from a recent assessment conference:

 Few schools are attempting to draft recommendations regarding the component areas, assessment of core objectives and it is far less stellar. Texas Tech is starting with a clean slate and will make new proposals. Beth is not sure what Texas A&M is currently doing. At the community college level a variety of things are being done. Beth stated that one of our strengths at Texas State is that we have a very clean General Education core curriculum. She suggested that “we don’t throw it all out.” Perhaps we should spend our time on courses that we know are going forward such as History, Political Science and Math. One possible plan is that we clean up the assessments. She will try to find out more on assessment of core objectives in an upcoming meeting she plans to attend.

Thereafter, a lengthy discussion followed on the THECB mandate for core curriculum. Topics included science courses and labs, assessing teamwork without a lab, transfer students, and how to strategically assess for both SACS and THECB. In addition, a council member suggested bringing in a Coordinating Board member to meet with council members at a future meeting. Dr. Brown suggested waiting on this until the April webinar has taken place. Dr. B. Stone noted that this new mandate is an evolutionary process, an animal in flux. It might be best to wait a while and let the Coordinating Board work some of these issues out and then we proceed.

Dr. Brown suggested that council members e-mail any questions to Beth Wuest before her next meeting. In addition, questions regarding component areas and assessment should also be e-mailed to Rex Peebles or Catherine Parsoneault before the April webinar. At our next meeting Beth Wuest will communicate any new information that she has gathered from her meeting.

7. Dr. Brown stated that the GEC will continue to meet on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} Mondays each month. In March, there will only be the meeting on March 27\textsuperscript{th} due to spring break. He will also discuss with the Provost the charge and timeline (deadline) given the council. The GEC may need more time and possibly need to meet in the summer. The council may need to ask the Provost for some additional time.
8. Dr. Brown will draft a letter to department chairs informing them of the THECB mandate. He will attach the document dated January 23, 2012 regarding the Texas Higher Education Core Curriculum.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phil Suckling, seconded by Bill Stone and approved unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jackie Moczygemba.