General Education Council Minutes
Date: 3/26/12
Meeting Location: JCK 880

Council members present:
S. Bebee – College of Liberal Arts
S. O’Neal – College of Education
M. Houser – College of Fine Arts & Communication
D. Feakes – College of Science and Engineering
L. Harney – College of Liberal Arts
K. McCurdy – College of Education
E. Blunk – College of Applied Arts
T. Hindson – College of Liberal Arts
G. White – McCoy College of Business Administration
P. Suckling – Chair Representative
V. Luizzi – Chair Representative
J. Butler – McCoy College of Business Administration

Council members absent:
B. Stone – College of Applied Arts
K. Peirce – College of Fine Arts & Communication
R. Shanmugam – College of Health Professions
J. Moczygemba – College of Health Professions
G. Passty – College of Science
Student Representative - TBN
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Visitors: Beth Wuest, Mike Hennessy, Steven Beebe, Dan Lochman, Temple Clark

Meeting convened at 3:32 p.m.

Dr. Brown distributed the agenda for the meeting.

Council members and visitors introduced themselves.

Dr. Brown stated that he will be sending a letter to all deans and chairs thanking council members for the service to the GEC committee. He would also be letting them know about members with expiring terms and the election/re-election process.

**Motion:** Approve minutes from February 27, 2012 GEC meeting. M. Houser so moved. D. Feakes seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Brown distributed an email from Faculty Development regarding upcoming satellite broadcasts, The Core Curriculum: A Focus 21st Century Competencies. Dr. Brown encouraged council members to attend one of the live webinars but, if they could no, then to please provide him questions to ask as he will be attending both webinars.
Representing the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of English, visitors, Mike Hennessy and Dan Lochman, distributed handouts - the First-Year English Syllabus and a Rationale for a Sophomore Literature Requirement in the Texas State General Education Core. They stated why the nine hours of English (1310, 1320 and one course from 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2359 or 2360) should remain in the core curriculum and that the Department of English has ability to assess the courses in a manner consistent with what the THECB now requires.

Representing the Department of Communication Studies, visitor, Steven Beebe distributed a handout - Core Objectives for the Communication Component of the Texas Higher Education Core Curriculum Communication 1310 Activities/Assignments and Assessment Measures. He stated why Communication Studies 1310 course should remain in the core curriculum and that the Department of Communication Studies has ability to assess the course in a manner consistent with what the THECB now requires.

Representing the Department the Philosophy, council member, Vincent Luizzi, stated why Philosophy 1305 and 1320 (students take only one) should remain in the core curriculum and that the Department of Philosophy has the ability to assess the courses in the manner consistent with what the THECB now requires.

Questions/Discussion/Review of the above presentations by council members
D. Feakes - can any of the current core curriculum courses by taught in a two-hour format?
T. Hindson – are there any departments that no longer wish to be a part of core curriculum?
R. Brown – is this an opportunity to bring down class size?

An issue brought up by D. Feakes is that there are courses where the contact hours are more than the credit hours earned by the students.

Visitor B. Wuest discussed what she had found when she reviewed other institutions classified as “research” or “emerging research” and found that six schools (UT-Austin, UT-Dallas, UTSA, UTEP, North Texas, & Houston) offer non-lab sciences to non science majors and that three schools (Texas Tech, UT-Arlington, and A&M) currently offer four-hour sciences courses.

The social science component of the current core curriculum will be discussed at the GEC meeting on April 9, 2012.

The natural science component of the current core curriculum will be discussed at the GEC meeting on April 23, 2012.

Dr. Brown stated that there would be a re-visiting of the assessment from last year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.