

General Education Council Meeting

Minutes from Monday, June 11, 2012

Council Members Present: Dr. Ron Brown; Dr. Greg Passty; Ms. Jackie Moczygemba; Mr. Chris Russian; Dr. Elizabeth Blunk; Dr. Sharon O'Neal; Dr. Vince Luizzi; Dr. Lucy Harney; Ms. Sue Beebe; Dr. Ted Hindson ; Dr. Philip Suckling; Mr. Don Rainey; Mr. Kirk Walker; Dr. Beth Wuest; Dr. Debra Feakes; Dr. Dan Lochman

Visitors: Ms. Diane McCabe (Senior Lecture & Associate Director, Honors College) and Dr. Duane V. Knudson, Chair, Health & Human Performance

- I. Meeting was convened at 3:30 p.m. by Ron Brown.
- II. Council members introduced themselves to visitors
- III. Approve Minutes of GEC meeting of April 23, 2012
 - A. Dr. Brown put a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 23, 2012. Lucy Harney 2nd the motion. Everyone agreed.
- IV. Presentation by Dr. Duane V. Knudson, Chair, Health & Human Performance
 - A. Dr. Brown invited Dr. Duane Knudson to present to the council members.
 - B. Dr. Knudson discussed how PFW's align with the 21st century skills and core objectives.
 - C. Dr. Knudson passed out a handout that was a proposal for PFW courses to fulfill the requirements of the component option under Social and Behavior Sciences.
 - D. After Dr. Knudson was done presenting, Dr. Brown asked if any council members had any questions or comments.
 - E. Dr. Suckling asked would having 1-hour PFW's in the Social & Behavioral Science component cause an arithmetic problem in the core curriculum since course options are 3 hours. Is that logical? He thought a new course would have been presented that included a lecture component. The information presented is existing courses.
 - F. Dr. Feakes recommended to have science labs (1 hour) included and students could choose from as well. It could be a suite of options.
 - G. Mr. Rainey added a statement about PFW courses changes the mindset of students with the courses. Discussed the University being a Hispanic Serving Institute and serving this population of students. Mr. Rainey asked if there are other environments of curriculum for students to have this opportunity to participate in physical activities. Mr. Rainey wants to keep PFW's as a requirement or even as options in the core curriculum.

- H. Dr. Brown asked if any council members had any additional questions or comments. No one from the council had additional questions or comments.
- V. Presentation by Ms. Diann McCabe, Senior Lecture & Associate Director, Honors College
- A. Dr. Brown invited Ms. McCabe to present to the council members.
 - B. Ms. McCabe passed out a handout as she discussed the history and background of the Honors College and courses.
 - C. Discussed the process of how new Honors courses are selected. An interview committee interviews the professor to see if they class that was proposed should be offered as an Honors course at Texas State. Honors class sizes are limited to 17 students and is taught in seminar style. Some Honors courses substitute for certain core curriculum courses.
 - D. Ms. McCabe discussed how the Honors College is thinking about moving forward. Honors courses auto fits the component area option. They would like to invite a member of the General Education Council to be apart of the Interview Committee to have input on the selection of new Honors courses. The General Education Council Representative would bring the information that they learned back to the whole council.
 - E. After Ms. McCabe was done presenting, Dr. Brown asked if any council members had any questions or comments.
 - F. Ms. Beebe stated she believes the Honors courses meet the core curriculum objectives, but has a concern about the assessment of the courses. Ms. McCabe discussed their current assessment methods and practices and suggested adding questions to it. Ms. McCabe further explained that there will be more discussion on the assessment of Honors courses. Ms. Beebe asked if there would there be additional assessment to the Honors courses than what they currently offer and Ms. McCabe replied with “Yes, they are open.”
 - G. Dr. Brown informed the council that Lucy Heston (from Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) said one of the assessment tools could be indirect. A general survey could be given to all students in core curriculum courses. This would allow for a view at a macro level. This could be one of our assessment instruments.
 - H. Dr. Brown asked if any council members had any additional questions or comments. No one from the council had additional questions or comments.
- VI. The visitors were excused from the meeting at 4:00 p.m.
- VII. Report from Provost Bourgeois

- A. Dr. Brown passed out handout of three proposals for the General Education Core Curriculum that he created with the input of Provost Bourgeois. Dr. Brown informed the council that the proposals are only suggestions of how General Education could look, but they are not definitive.
- B. Dr. Brown discussed how he was told by Lucy Heston that Texas State University is a model for other institutions because we incorporate faculty, staff, students, and administration in the process. Lucy Heston also said that Texas State could be the best in the state.
- C. The proposals should be considered with what are advantages and disadvantages.
- D. Discussed the handout of the three proposals in general
- There has to be a pathway for the Mathematics component. According to Lucy Heston, students could complete Math 2417 and/or Math 2471 and the 4-hours could count for 3-hours as far as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is concerned. Possibly have freestanding labs.
 - Creative Arts: Introduction to Fine Arts is appreciation instead of application. Possibly have them more specifically focused on the specific area than done in previous years. Introduction to Fine Arts is currently interchangeable, (referring to the course replacement policy with Introduction To Fine 2313 courses).
 - History and Government is required by the state.
 - Social and Behavioral Sciences component possibly could have more classes added.
 - Dr. Brown mentioned there is nothing sacred about the Component Area Option; it is just a way of trying to structure possible options.
 - Dr. Suckling noticed the Life and Physical Sciences differ between all three models. Dr. Brown explained the difference.
 - Dr. Feakes mentioned that the College of Science and Engineering feel strongly that students (non-majors) should be required to take a science lab. There was more discussion about the 3-hour lecture and 2-hour lab.
 - Ms. Beebe suggested that the science lab could be a hidden requirement.
 - Dr. Suckling suggested altering the wording in the proposals under Life and Physical Sciences to include "science minors". Dr. Suckling asked Dr. Feakes about what the departments in the College of Science and Engineering wanted as far as the science labs. Dr. Feakes clarified that they want a science lab.

- Ms. Moczygemba asked if Proposal 3 was the only one to include PFW's required (1 hour classes)
- Dr. Suckling mentioned if students wanted to use a lab in Proposal 3. Proposal 2 and 3 hides ENG 1310 as a hidden prerequisite. Dr. Dan Lochman informed the council that he was not happy with this option because of students coming in with AP credit.
- Dr. Brown mentioned that it was not clear in the webinar if students who earn credit in AP, IB, CLEP, and dual credit (taken at non – Texas institutions), would have to be repeat the core curriculum course the credit was equivalent to. He mentioned that the student would not have to repeat the equivalent course. There will be no duplicate hours to meet the core curriculum objectives.
- Ms. Beebe discussed English as 6-hour writing and having English 1310, as a hidden prerequisite would cause for students to think of it as an applied remedial class. Students would view it as remediation. She feels strongly about English 1310 and 1320.
- Dr. Luizzi wanted clarification in Proposal 3 under the Component Area Option, where to read the "or's". Dr. Brown explained the Component Area Option should have a total of 6 hours.
- Dr. Hindson wanted clarification of why Music 2313 was listed twice. Dr. Brown informed the council that it was a typo.
- Dr. Brown informed the council that the School of Family and Consumer Sciences wants to add a course to the core curriculum.
- Dr. Suckling strongly opposed making English 1310 a hidden pre-requisite. He asked the council if starting with a proposal and adding and making changes to it. Recommended on integrating the models. Dr. Lucy Harney said it wouldn't be bad to make tentative options and come back to it.
- Dr. Harney discussed the Life and Physical Science requirement. She asked Dr. Feakes if it creates a hardship on the departments if goes to 3-2. Dr. Feakes mentioned the most vocal department is Biology who has the largest enrollment in their lab courses. It impacts time and space. Dr. Passty informed the council the lack of labs would cost them graduate assistants (GA's). The GA's learn something by teaching when labs does not work. Dr. Feakes reiterated that it takes away experience by not having labs.
- Dr. Brown stated that Provost Bourgeois doesn't foresee an impact in the allocations of resources with core curriculum

changes. He sees this as a better opportunity for students by bringing class sizes down.

- Ms. Beebe recommended to not to hear proposals from departments who want to add courses to the core curriculum. She recommended postponing it until we have an idea of what the new components will be. Dr. Suckling agreed. No new courses should start before Fall 2014.
- Dr. Blunk informed the council that the new course being recommended for the core curriculum would be a Nutrition course for the Life and Physical Science component.

VIII. Dr. Feakes had a discrepancy with the minutes from the last meeting (April 23, 2012). Dr. Brown asked her to email her concerns to him so it could be added to the meeting minutes.

IX. Dr. Brown requested that the council come back in two weeks (Monday, June 25, 2012) with suggestions for the core curriculum. Chris Russian moved that the Council meeting adjourn and Kurt Walker seconded the motion.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.