

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015
3:30pm, JCK 880

Attendees: Brown (Chair), Burns, Carter, Close, Dedek, Erhart, Gonzales, Hanks, Harney, Hawkins, Hindson, Merit, Passty, Pizer, Supancic, White, Wilson, Cathy Lamm (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Hamilton, O'Neal (ex), Rivero, Russian

Guest: Micky Autrey

Council members introduced themselves.

The minutes of June 22, 2015, were presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes of June 22, 2015, was made by Hanks, seconded by White. Motion passed unanimously.

A TSUS press release handout was distributed regarding the Texas State University System commitment to AP/CLEP credit for non-traditional students. It was noted that testing personnel were convinced that AP testing was only for AP students. Everything seems to mention AP and CLEP together. It was inquired if there was any faculty input. Brown advised the legislation specified that AP credit be reviewed. Additionally, the AP tests have been redone, and academic departments were asked to provide course credit for scores of 3 and above. It was inquired about assigning a grade credit, but Brown noted that grade credit was awarded only for CLEP courses for Spanish, German and French. Brown advised that at this point, it is not grade credit. It was inquired whether it could be retroactive.

Brown advised the Council will not be able to review the plans for assessment until October because they are not due until the end of September, so the Council should be able to review at either the October 12 or 26 Council meeting. Reports need to be in by the first part of November. Brown advised the Council will need to have a meeting devoted to solely looking at assessment plan for the year.

Brown distributed a "Draft" memo to chairs and directors that have General Education Core Curriculum courses attaching the Gen Ed Student Learning Outcomes and asked Council members to look it over to make sure it reflects the proper steps of what should happen. The rationale is reported to the Coordinating Board and SACSCOC, so it needs to be accurate in the future for reporting boards. It was inquired how we can assure that the steps happen. Brown advised the steps will be monitored closely in order to avoid being reprimanded by SACSCOC, and that help is available should department representatives need help to complete their reports. Wilson recommended moving the third paragraph of the memo to the top so that it is read first. Brown suggested highlighting both the third paragraph and Wuest's section of the student learning outcomes in yellow. Hanks and Erhart suggested making it big or bolded on the Gen Ed part. It was also recommended to use an exclamation point on the emails. It was decided to move the third paragraph to the top of the memo and use a larger bolded font. Brown advised the two delinquent

departments will need to be in compliance for this year and they are aware and are working to resolve the issue.

With regard to additional Honors courses, Brown has talked and written to Rex Peebles, and we are waiting for his approval. He verbally gave an unconditional approval, but the written approval received was conditional. Several follow-ups were made regarding the conditional approval, but he has not responded. The Provost was consulted for guidance, and he gave the go ahead to implement the Honors courses. The Provost may be meeting with Peebles in Austin to discuss the Honors College courses. Bourgeois is a former director of Honors so is aware of the issues present.

Brown reminded the Council that in addition to the component assessment, the Coordinating Board requires that all General Education courses need to address what they describe as objectives: all must address communication and critical thinking and all but mathematics must address two other objectives: mathematical skills, teamwork, personal responsibility and social responsibility.

Supancic requested to revisit item 7 regarding the Honors courses. He emphasized that the Coordinating Board should give approval versus the Provost. Brown advised that it should be fine since these are all classes that are currently being taught and not new classes. Brown reiterated that Peebles stated the courses would have to be reapproved in one year and reassessed, and he will present the Council's concern to the Provost for a possible resolution. Hanks informed the Council that a week before UT classes started, the Coordinating Board turned down several courses and many students had to be placed in other Gen Ed courses at the last minute. Supancic moved to not consider additional Honors courses until a decision has been made by the Coordinating Board. The motion was seconded by Erhart. Further discussion continued. Brown reiterated that the header courses were approved, not additional new Honors courses, and informed that Galloway previously stated there would only be 3-5 new courses taught after this year. Burns stated he doesn't think the Honors classes will "make" without Gen Ed credit. It was noted that Rex Peebles is the deputy commissioner. It was also noted that the Honors courses for spring have not yet been approved as the courses submitted were meant for fall 2015. Supancic moved to not review or accept any additional submissions from the Honors College until receive definite word from the Coordinating Board that the courses have been approved. Seconded by Erhart. Close abstained from voting due to lack of information since she is a new Council member; Hanks too abstained from voting. Motion passed unanimously.

Passty thanked everyone for the get well card and said he was doing well.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Burns to adjourn, seconded by White, meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.