

General Education Council

Minutes

1.25.10

Council Present:

R. Shanmugan-Health Professions
W. Stone-Applied Arts
C. Hazlewood-Science
T. Hindson-Liberal Arts Alternate
E. Blunk-Applied Arts
R. Cook-McCoy Business Administration
B. Erhart-Liberal Arts
V. Luizzi-Chair Representative
P. Suckling-Chair Representative
A. Pizer-Fine Arts and Communication
G. Passty-Science
M. Keeffe-McCoy Business Administration
J. Walker-Education
S. Beebe-Liberal Arts
Council Absent:
L. Lockhart-Health Professions
C. McCall-Education
K. Peirce-Fine Arts and Communication
J. Collard-Student Representative
D. Burrow-Student Representative

Meeting convened at 3:32 p.m.

Introductions

Review handout with responses to SACS Standards 2.7.3 and 3.5.1

2.7.3 In each undergraduate degree program, the institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the collegiate level that (1) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree, (2) ensures breadth of knowledge, and (3) is based on a coherent rationale. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent. These credit hours are to be drawn from and include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. The courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession. If an institution uses a unit other than semester credit hours, it provides an explanation for the equivalency. The institution also provides a justification if it allows for fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit of general education courses. (**General Education**)

Compliance

The Off-Site Committee found that the general education core required by TSU-SM exceeded the minimum requirement of 30 semester credit hours for a baccalaureate degree. It requires the successful completion of a general education core curriculum that encompasses 46 hours for each undergraduate degree program. The general education component ensures breadth of knowledge by including the following component areas: humanities, visual and performing arts, communication, social and behavioral sciences (including specific requirements in history and political science), mathematics, natural science, physical fitness/wellness, and a university seminar.

The institution's general education core assures breadth of knowledge and is based on a coherent rationale; and is linked to the University's mission, which emphasized the university's function as a "public, student-centered, doctoral-granting institution dedicated to excellence in serving the educational needs of the diverse population of Texas and the world beyond." Seven core competencies are reinforced and integrated into the program outcomes of all undergraduate degrees.

A review of the Undergraduate Catalog 2008-2010 confirmed that TSU-SM required the successful completion of a general education core of 46 semester credit hours in each of its baccalaureate degree programs: six hours of English composition, three hours of speaking and listening, three hours of mathematics at or above the level of college algebra, seven to eight hours of natural science courses (physical anthropology, astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, and physics), three hours of fine arts appreciation, six hours of humanities (literature and philosophy/ethics), 15 hours of behavioral and social science (six hours of U.S. history, six hours of political science (Texas and U.S. government) and three hours of another social science (anthropology, economics, geography, psychology, and sociology), an integrative one-hour university seminar course (to 7 be completed in the first year of study) and two physical fitness and wellness courses.

- 3.5.1** The institution identifies college-level general education competencies and the extent to which graduates have attained them. (**College-level competencies**)

Compliance

TSU-SM identified appropriate general education competencies and has a General Education Council, which was implemented in 1999 to oversee the general education curriculum. The institution presented evidence that showed the extent to which graduates attained the general education competencies.

Assessment activities appear to have been in place since only 2007. The General Education Components Outcomes Assessment report is well-designed and provides a thorough assessment of the general education goals within 24

Individual courses. Other assessment methods include the Collegiate Learning Assessment, given to a representative group of students, and the alumni survey. Two assessment methods, Reading and Computer Information Literacy Testing and Reinforcement of General Education Competencies within Academic Programs, reflected and supported the

core competencies but were not pure assessments of them.

QEP-PACE

Quality Enhancement Plan—Personalized Academic and Career Exploration
-Request whole report from B. Wuest.

Please send and have your department chair send the Competency reinforcement summaries to RB04.

Syllabus Checklist:

Legislation passed—Have syllabi on website

PPS 4.01 --- review #34 and #35

#34—non-general education added K & L

#35—GE-Good Practices not in PPS and added Q and R

Motion: Recommendation to remove Wingspread Journal Seven Principles of Good Practices from the General Education Syllabus Review Checklist. We will also add to the Syllabi Checklist anything from PPS 4.01 not currently listed. S. Beebe so moves. C. Hazlewood seconds the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Review handout of: *Assessing Outcomes and Improving Achievement Tips and Tools for Using Rubrics* from AAC&U

Booklet handout: 2009 Enrollment Highlights

-More information can be found on IR website

E-Portfolios

-Possible use with PACE-QEP

Advising 1:300 ratio in future

TREC completed freshman CLA testing for fall and will work on Seniors for the Spring

Future Issues:

Revisit Rubrics

Send Competency Report to RB04

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.