General Education Forum
Meeting Minutes, September 30, 2013
9:00 am – 11:00 am
SRHM 114

Attendees:

General Education Program Model 1

- Three credit Entering Year Experience
- 33 hours of General Education
  - Communication 6 hours
  - Math 6 hours
  - Humanities 6-9 – start at 9, when Entering Year Experience comes in, it goes to 6-9
  - Social Sciences 6-9 hours
  - Natural Sciences 6-9 hours
- Civic Identity – courses marked with this designation – not certain how many hours yet

General Education Program Model 2 – Competency Model

- State Core – separate (but not competency 1/11)
- Florida Gulf Coast University Core 24 hours
  - Entering Year Experience – Liberal Education and Civic Engagement – 3 hours
  - Critical Thinking Courses – 2 of the 3 areas – 6-7 hours
    - Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences
    - Needs to be added science courses can be 4 hours
  - Written communication – 9-10 hours
    - Competency 1/11 Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (different area than Critical Thinking)
    - Maybe these courses should meet Gordon Rule Writing – or we will have conflicting requirements
    - Will these courses be capped at 25?
  - Quantitative Reasoning – 3 hours
  - Civic Identity – 3 hours
    - Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences

Elspeth McCulloch – Why have the State University System broken out in General Education Program Model 2?
Eric Otto – Because it would become convoluted to demarcate the state courses. But we would love to hear ways to integrate.

Allison Bacigalupi – Model 1 – Humanities – is it 6 or is it 6-9?

Eric Otto – It is 6-9.

Glenn Whitehouse – In either model, would statistics no longer be required?

Eric Otto – Yes.

Glenn Whitehouse – Humanities – 9 now, becomes 6-9? Or 6?


Cathy Duff – On all of these, we must overlap the Common Pre-requisites. In the General Education Program Model 2, there aren’t 9 hours allowable in sciences. We must be able to accommodate all majors.

Eric Otto – Yes, this point was made by the science members of the General Education Council.

Nikolai Wenzel – General Education Program Model 2 – very innovative. All the classes that currently exist can exist in Model 2? – Yes. Do the faculty get to choose if the class is Critical Thinking? – Yes, they would propose. Can a class be in more than one competency?

Eric Otto – Good question. Then you would have to do assessment in both areas.

Greg Tolley – Not sure of the simplicity of plugging things in. if you make a science class Gordon Rule Writing, you would have to take out 90% of the content.

Halcyon St. Hill – Putting the competencies there allows us to highlight them – but the disciplinary content still must be met. All courses would meet disciplinary content and the General Education competency.

Allison Bacigalupi – Recommendation- if a course counts under a particular competency, it should be for all sections.

Eric Otto – Having faculty propose courses in a particular area will allow for conversations among the faculty.

Kris De Welde – These decisions should be made by programs, not by individual faculty or by General Education Council.

Cathy Duff – I endorse what Allison suggested. Course meeting more than one competency – do you want the issue of double dipping or does a course have a primary competency.

Entering Year Experience – if that is a required course, will that be for all students, even transfers?
Eric Otto – We have discussed this. What do you think?

Cathy Duff – You can go either way. If it is structured for First Time in College students, transfers may not need it.

Advisor – Courses for freshmen should be students coming straight from high school; more and more of our students have at least 18+ hours; they would find Entering Year Experience courses redundant; these students should come straight to the college, not to First Year advising.

Kristen Zimmerman – Need to have a definition of First Time in College that allows you to make this decision.

Morgan Paine – Variety of concerns. What has changed to make an Art experience no longer an expectation of a Florida Gulf Coast University student? HUM 2510 has been replaced by Civic Identity.

Eric Otto – Some of these concepts could be in Entering Year Experience. This is an orientation into liberal studies – art could be a part of this.

- HUM 2510 absorbs 1700 students per semester in 4-5 faculty sections; assuming Entering Year Experience will require more faculty; is it online?

Eric Otto – Right now it is an idea to get feedback.

- Need to be aware of the resources to staff this; shift in reorganization of faculty responsibility. This is problematic – he would like to see a list of objectives for this course. These models do not seem to have a liberal arts flavor – which focuses on a historical values of humans across time.

Eric Otto – Should we abandon a liberal arts perspective and just go with the state’s hodge podge?

Halcyon – Give us specific ideas about how to do this.

Rebecca Totaro – To bring us back to the practical concerns about Entering Year Experience: how will we teach it and take it? How will we shift resources? Will it include art? Civic identity? Hard for us to have conversations without parameters.

Eric Otto – We want feedback so that we can figure out the next step.

Kris De Welde – One of the reasons it is there is because the idea of Entering Year Experience came through from the feedback. When we look at the literature and other institutions, they have such an experience, and it affects retention. The role of the General Education Council is not to define this; we need faculty involvement. We need to figure out what it might look like. Faculty could go to a First Year Experience Conference to work on this project.

Morgan Paine – Where would the courses be housed?
Halcyon St. Hill – This is just a model. In terms of the courses and where they fit is another step that we need to take. There are ideas – we want feedback. We hear that there are concerns about Entering Year Experience.

Allison Bacigalupi – from an advisor perspective – students tell us that they are missing an introduction to our culture. This would help them integrate. We enjoy this idea.

- Seconded by Advisor

Greg Tolley – Appreciates that the General Education Council shouldn’t be the ones to decide Entering Year Experience – but then we are in trouble because we will be spinning our wheels in General Education Council can’t define the competencies, etc.

Eric Otto – We are hoping to convene General Education Coordinating Committees to define these things. Then we will have a definition of Critical Thinking, etc.

Greg Tolley – I assume the General Education Council has an idea what the other competencies are.

Eric Otto – Yes. We are not changing ground rules. Critical Thinking, Writing, Quantitative Reasoning are defined and will remain the same.

Greg Tolley – But without more information, we are concerned.

Kim Jackson – I like the idea of Civic Identity in the disciplines. Can Entering Year Experience be put in the disciplines? So that each of them can introduce the Entering Year Experience from their disciplinary perspective.

Eric Otto – So the sciences could create an Entering Year Experience. Interesting idea.

Kris De Welde – We did talk about this. But that would take away from the humanities, which is at the root of liberal arts.

Tanya – If you do it in the disciplines, then it isn’t’ any longer an introduction to Florida Gulf Coast University culture. This could be the lower level equivalent to Colloquium.

Glenn Whitehouse – I share some of the concerns. If the course is taken out of the humanities, it should be humanities based. Who gets to decide this? Will it be a small group of humanities faculty? A wider group? There are many people who have a stake in this.

Eric Otto – Going back to feedback from faculty last year and reviewing best practices, it is something that we have heard we should do this.

Nikolai Wenzel – Create a committee to off and hear what others are doing to get more feedback. Similar to what has happened with the Honors Core. We need to decide who should be involved and what the process would be and make sure it is inclusive.

Cathy Duff – Understands appeal of adopting one distribution and then changing it later.
Jim Wohlpart – If the Entering Year Experience is humanities, the distribution would not have to change, Cathy is right.

Tanya – What about computer literacy and CGS 1100 – we should require that.

Kris De Welde – The librarian on the General Education Council has championed Information Literacy. Plus these changes are happening in line with the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Morgan Paine – Can we fracture the three credit unit into one credit?

Rebecca Totaro – How is this different from Styles and Ways? Question about resources.

Jim Wohlpart – Styles and Ways and Connections were 1 and 2 credits and not favored by the Provost.

Rebecca Totaro – But who will be qualified teach it?

Jim Wohlpart – Let’s make sure we don’t keep shifting the conversation. The question was about resources. The resources will go into Entering Year Experience or into another humanities course. The issue of who will teach them is an important one.

Morgan Paine – We are replacing Entering Year Experience with HUM 2510. Will we teach this course in sections of 400?

Kris De Welde – Is there feedback on the models?

Allison Bacigalupi – General Education Program Model 2 allows us to teach more pointedly about what the classes are and why they are where they are.

Glenn Whitehouse – Model 2 is easier in terms of assessment but it will be more difficult for students to understand.

Cathy Duff – If Natural Sciences fall under Civic Identity, how will Organic Chemistry or Physics fit?

Eric Otto – The faculty in the program determine this.

Allison Bacigalupi – Environmental Biology will fit.

Cathy Duff – But what about the students who are science majors?

Eric Otto – These courses could fit in Critical Thinking.

Cathy Duff – everything must fit. We need to work through the models to see if students can make it fit.

Rebecca Totaro – Models look really good. Mission and Purpose have been revised nicely! Thank you.

Glenn Whitehouse – Strength of the distribution model is it forces to take courses outside their comfort zone.
Morgan Paine – There is no General Education Program Model without Civic Identity? Close but not quite the same as Florida Gulf Coast University’s identity.

Eric Otto – Reads the definition from American Association of Colleges and Universities.

Morgan Paine – We need to develop a communal understanding of Civic Identity; we need this to be alive and dynamic (unlike the other competencies).