

## General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Lyceum 110

Present: Lee Cohen (Co-Chair), Noel Wilkin (Co-Chair), Maurice Eftink, Rich Forgette, Katie Busby, Kate Kellum, Stephen Monroe, Jon Moen, James Reid, Patti O'Sullivan, Bob Cummings, Jason Ritchie, Nancy Wiggers, Mindy Sutton, Danielle Ammeter, John Chappell (ASB Representative), Hunter Myers (ASB Representative)

Absent: Ginny Chavis (Art) and Deborah Mower (Philosophy)

1. Approval of Previous Minutes – Dr. Moen moved to approve the previous minutes. Dr. Forgette seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Discussion of QEP Topic Selection Process (Wells-Dolan)  
Dr. Wells-Dolan provided an overview of the recently concluded first step in the QEP Topic Selection process. See handout #1 attached. The committee voiced support and enthusiasm for the proposed topic: improving critical thinking. Several committee members offered to assist in whatever way possible. There was some discussion about opportunities for collaboration, given that critical thinking is one of our general education outcomes. Dr. Eftink shared the previous QEP and discussed our university's timeline and next steps. Rich, Stephen, and Danielle reported on their experiences with the QEP Topic Selection Task Force. Dr. Cummings asked about OIRA involvement in the process. Wondered if direct and indirect assessment data had informed the selection of the topic. Drs. Wells-Dolan, Busby, and Kellum explained the many types of assessment data that had led the committee to critical thinking. Bob also had the good idea to inform the IHL board about our selected topic. Drs. Wilkin and Eftink offered to think about the best way to inform IHL. Dr. Wells-Dolan was applauded for her leadership of the QEP Topic Selection Task Force, which did its work thoroughly and expeditiously.

3. Dr. Kellum updated the committee on pending changes to the SACS-COC Principles that relate to general education. See handout #2 attached. Maurice provided background on these changes, focusing specifically on implications related to the shift from 3.5.1 to 23 a & b. The discussion soon turned to our ongoing efforts to improve the teaching and assessment of oral communication.
  
4. Dr. Forgette updated the committee on the questionnaire to be circulated amongst deans. He asked the committee for feedback on the current draft. See handout #3 attached. Rich explained how survey results will be used to inform our oral communications mapping project. He provided an overview of current improvement efforts and asked Dr. Cummings to deliver some good news on our progress. Bob reported that we have successfully hired a Coordinator of Oral Communications (Dr. Ashley Jones-Bodie). She will start this summer and will take the lead implementing the improvement plan approved by the general education committee last year. She will be an assistant professor in the DWR and comes to us with rich experience from LSU. Bob thanked the provost and dean for supporting this hire. Many thanked Bob for leading our efforts to improve the teaching and assessment of oral communications. There was a robust discussion of the previously endorsed five-point plan. James, Patti, Maurice, John, Noel, and Danielle provided excellent ideas and debate. Kate reminded the group that we have made progress but need to document and continue that progress ahead of our September 2018 SACS-COC report. Given the new principles, we should highlight our ongoing efforts to seek improvement based on analysis of results. Many agreed that we should pilot the 1-hour speech course as soon as possible.
  
5. Dr. Wilkin summarized a request from a student group called SASI. They are looking for ways to increase the teaching of “cultural studies.” Dr. Wilkin led a discussion about the best approaches to helping these students explore their options. John volunteered to connect with SASI leaders to gather more information about their recent efforts and goals. Dr. Monroe has just been asked to chair a subcommittee to update the

student learning outcomes for EDHE 105. He and John plan to invite SASI leaders to speak with that subcommittee. Drs. Wilkin and Cohen agreed that this would be a good place to start in supporting SASI.

6. Dr. Cohen thanked the committee and adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.