

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Ad Hoc Meeting of the General Education Council**  
**Wednesday, January 23, 2013**

**General Education Council Members in Attendance:** Byron Brown, Sheri Gravett, Jane Kinney, Kent Moore  
**Visitors:** Michael Black, Katherine Adams, Jackson Rainer, Jeremy Tost

This ad hoc meeting of the General Education Council was a brainstorming session with colleagues from the Department of Psychology and Counseling to explore mutually beneficial ways to improve the assessment process for general education classes at Valdosta State University.

**Major Issues Discussed:** The General Education Council has worked on the past several years with departments offering courses in the core curriculum to establish a regular schedule through which faculty in those departments would design and develop embedded assessments to gauge student success in meeting VSU's General Education outcomes for core areas A-E. While the GEC has been successful in implementing this schedule and working with departments to develop assessments, it is concerned about providing appropriate feedback to those departments in order to help faculty continue to fine tune their assessments or to consider alternate ways of conducting those assessments. The major goals would be to help departments collect data that will enable them to pinpoint areas for improvement in their classes in as efficient and manageable a format as possible.

**Proposed Course of Action:** Dr. Katherine Adams and Dr. Jeremy Tost have research interests in retention and assessment and in research design. They discussed with the GEC ways in which they could work with the GEC to improve assessments and also provide them with a research and publication opportunity.

Subject to agreement by everyone; here is tentative course of action:

- (1) Dr. Adams and Dr. Tost would each receive a stipend of \$1000 to serve as Assessment Consultants for the GEC.
- (2) Their work, initially spanning from Spring 2013 until August 2013 will involve the following:
  - A brief review of and feedback on the GEC Assessment Worksheets posted in BlazeVIEW (currently approximately 34). This feedback will include suggestions on the appropriateness of the proposed assessments in measuring the designated learning outcomes as well as possible suggestions for better design of those assessments or possible alternative assessments.
  - Suggestions for possible tools (including workshops) and guidelines to assist departments in preparing and fine-tuning their assessments.
  - Assistance in preparing for the Core Curriculum Meeting in August 2013.

**GEC Activities for Spring 2013**

Over the course of this semester, the GEC will hold monthly meetings with representatives from the courses in each core area. Tentative meetings are currently scheduled as follows:

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| Area A: | January 29 at 2 p.m.<br>(English and Mathematics)   |
| Area C: | February 26 at 2 p.m.<br>(English, Art, Communication Arts (COMM, DANC, MDIA, THEA), Music, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Modern and Classical Languages) |
| Area D: | March 26 at 2 p.m. (Astronomy Physics, and Geosciences; Biology; Chemistry, Mathematics)  |
| Area E: | April 30 at 2 p.m.<br>(Political Science, History, African American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, Geography, Economics, Psychology)                    |

The tentative plan for each meeting could be as follows:

- (1) Introductions
- (2) Discussion of Core Learning Outcome for each area
- (3) Brief presentation by representatives from each class on their assessment status (those already in process and those still needing to be designed and implemented), including discussion of potential problem areas
- (4) Discussion of the area as a whole in an attempt to help create an identity for each area, not just for individual classes.