**MINUTES**

**General Education Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 27, 2011**

**11 am**

**Alumni Hall of Fame Room (WH 119)**

**GEC Members in Attendance:**  Byron Brown, Brian Gerber, Sheri Gravett, Jane Kinney, Kent Moore, James LaPlant, Gayle Taylor

**Guests:** Amanda King, Mimi McGahee, Jerry Merwin, Chere Peguesse, Alicia Roberson, Terence Sullivan, Marsha Walden

**Updates**

1. Minutes from August 30, 2011 meeting posted at <http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/GECMinutes.shtml>
2. Current Status of VSU General Education Assessment Pilot Project: GEC members will remind those in their areas of feedback reports still due (feedback report available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/>)

DATA COLLECTION IN SPRING 2011 (data still needed)

PHASE ONE TEAMS: BIOL 1010/1020L 1030/1040L

PHASE THREE TEAMS: ENGL 2110-2130

1. Draft email was sent to department heads reminding them of upcoming deadlines in General Education assessment.
2. Meeting with Department of Sociology to discuss assessment plans for SOCI 1100 and 1160 was held on Monday, September 19, at noon (UC 1149)
3. FACULTY FAQS about core curriculum teaching (see attached)

**Discussion**

The GEC is attempting to develop some strategies and materials to assist faculty who teach in the core. One suggested strategy was to develop Faculty FAQs. The GEC is also interested in developing ways to help clarify and explain the core to our students. For this meeting, the GEC invited a number of advisors who work with different groups of students on our campus so that we can brainstorm about possible strategies.

A number of ideas emerged during the discussion about ways to talk with students about the necessity and importance for general education and for VSU’s core curriculum; this set of courses provides the framework for a broader-based education that will assist students no matter what their eventual major. These courses help develop important skills and knowledge and serve as the building blocks for more advanced study. They also enable students to explore new disciplines and possible new areas of interest. Several suggested a closer look at the documents for LEAP (Liberal Education and America’s Promise).

The group also discussed some concrete ways to share these broader philosophical ideas with our students and faculty, including the following:

1. Continued work on the Faculty FAQs.
2. Development of a process to encourage advisors and incoming freshmen to work on a two year plan. Such a plan might help students see the connections between their courses as well as a pathway to their eventual major.
3. Development of some visual aids that could be deployed to incoming freshmen and their parents, explaining the core and the pathway to their degree. The group agreed that a smaller subcommittee would work on the development of a short presentation (15 minutes or less) that could explain the core and prepare students before they came to registration. This type of resource could also be helpful for our online students and for our international students. Additionally, some suggested that it could also include an interactive quiz that could possibly serve as a pre-registration requirement. The following volunteered to serve on a committee to begin development of this resource: Sheri Gravett, Mimi McGahee, Chere Peguesse, Alicia Roberson, and Terence Sullivan.
4. The group also discussed the need for more resources to assist transfer students as they negotiated their transferring courses with VSU requirements.

**Future GEC Meetings for Fall 2011 (all on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in Nevins 1060C):**

**October 25, 2011**

**November 29, 2011**