

General Education Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2018

Members Present: Mark Smith, Ben Westcoatt, Deb Robson, Lai Orenduff

Members Absent: Heather Kelley, Aubrey Fowler, Tod Leavitt, Jane Kinney

- Minutes approved.
- Continued discussion on Freshman Seminars.
  1. Proposal to expand the discipline specific 1<sup>st</sup> year seminars to university-wide seminars.
    - a.) One option is to put in the Core, Area B
    - b.) Mandatory for all incoming Freshmen
    - c.) Must be academic in nature
    - d.) Co-curricular with Student Services
  2. Issues:
    - a.) Do we really need this?
    - b.) How does it work with Momentum Year?
    - c.) Strategic Plans?
    - d.) University System to re-envision the Core Curriculum
    - e.) Faculty buy-in; faculty
    - f.) Who will teach?
    - g.) How many sections?
    - h.) Affect credit hour production for current PERS faculty? (Especially College of Arts, College of Humanities and Social Studies)
    - i.) Credit hour changes?
    - j.) Need the Academic Provost to back this plan
    - k.) University-wide committees
    - l.) Partner with CELT and Student Services
  3. Peer institutions
    - a. Georgia Southern: has the longest program in place
      - Taken 1<sup>st</sup> semester
      - Goal: information literacy and research skills necessary for success
      - Engages students with like students in their majors since they choose their topics (intentional)
      - Faculty create classes around a theme and research component based on it
      - Can be part of a learning community
      - Variety of themes, all interdisciplinary about 130 options
      - 2 hr. credit, but extra along with healthful living and physical education. (6 extra hours beyond the Core and major.

- Summer, 2018: one option will be to link it to a Core class or leaning community, applying the information literacy from the seminar to a research project, enrolled in both courses at the same time.

b. West Georgia:

- Importance of life-long active learning
- Intellectual inquiry as key to academic success in college and in professional world
- Meaningful professional dialogue with faculty to develop mentoring relationships
- 2hr. credit in Area B.2
- Focus on intellectually engaging topics (approx. 60 options)
- Restricted to 1st year students
- Linked to Wolf Experience Map (must complete one in each of 5 categories)
- Wellness (attendance through swiping student ID card)
- Writing (Writing Center)
- Active Learning (academic coaching, Academic Success Center)
- Global Citizenship (Student Organization Fair, Town Hall, Diversity, etc.)
- Financial Literacy (Swipe student ID card) (loans, budgeting, credit, etc.)

c. Georgia State College and University: Most comprehensive

- Curricular and co-curriculum
- Not just on content: global issues\*, written and oral communication\*, information literacy\*
- Co-curricular with teambuilding, networking#
- Developing essential thinking skills to help you become more creative, analytical, and innovative (problem solvers)
- Document in ePortfolio: record that shows how you applied your skills, not just a listing of achievements on a resume.

- 1st year experience

1. Seminar style course: thinking-focused curriculum
2. Focus on concept of liberal arts
3. Creative thinking
4. Analysis
5. Information literacy
6. Intercultural competency

- Transformative experiences (pick 2)

1. Study abroad
  2. Community based engaged learning (experiential learning)
  3. Intensive leadership programs
  4. Mentored Research /creative endeavors
  5. Internships
- Career Planning Milestones
  - Senior Capstone

d. Gen Ed Council

- This has to be a university-wide effort requiring work from all constituents.
- This has to fit in with our Strategic Plan and Momentum Year.
- This will require a lot work with Area B professors deciding on load, options, credit-hours, professors.
- We need to work with Student Services and Career Center.