GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2010

Odum Library 4260

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Byron Brown, John Gaston, Brian Gerber, Sheri Gravett, Anita Hufft, Jane Kinney, James LaPlant, Kent Moore

1. Formation of Core Revision Steering Committee (CRSC):

Membership

Tasks: Overlay Approval Forms

Deans are in the process of appointing faculty representatives to serve on this committee, which will be charged with the following tasks:

1. Complete the “Application for Approval of General Education Learning Outcomes” to be submitted to the USG Council on General Education. As part of the new core curriculum policy, all institutions are required to develop and assess learning outcomes for each area of the core. These outcomes “must be collegiate-level, not skills based, broadly focused, and consistent with the mission of the USG.” Additionally, “each outcome must be measurable.”
2. Complete the “Overlay Approval Form,” designating which core courses will fulfill the required US, Global, and Critical Thinking requirements.

Additional representatives will also be appointed from the Department Heads’ Council, the General Education Council, and the University Assessment Committee. James LaPlant has volunteered to serve as the GEC representative. Once all the members are in place, we will schedule a meeting in which Dr. Gunter can deliver the charge to this committee, which will report to the GEC.

1. Regents’ Test Exemption Template: The GEC discussed the template provided by the USG and makes the following recommendation: the formation of a Regents’ Test Task Force to examine alternatives to the current tests. This task force will need to explore the following and make a recommendation:
2. What are the communication learning outcomes to be measured?
3. At what point should these outcomes be measured—at orientation, after the completion of certain courses, before entry into the major, as part of a senior graduation requirement?
4. Are any other outside tests available that could be used to measure these outcomes? These tests would need to be evaluated in terms of reliability, validity, and cost (both for the student and for the institutional resources needed to offer our own test).

With these aims in mind, the GEC recommends that members to this task force be appointed from the following areas: The Department of English; Oasis; Admissions; Psychology; Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education, and the Student Success Center.

1. Updates: General Education Assessment Project (information posted at <http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/>)

The various phases of the assessment project are progressing. Several reports are needed immediately from the PHASE TWO data collection.

PHASE ONE TEAMS (BIOL, COMM, ENGL 1102, MATH, PSYC): These teams should run their second round of embedded assessments in Spring 2010.

PHASE TWO TEAMS (ART, MUSC, POLS, SPAN, RELS/PHIL, THEA): These teams administered assessments in their Fall 2009 classes (no results available yet for POLS, SPAN, THEA)

PHASE THREE TEAMS (ECON, ENGL 2110-2130, GEOL, HIST, PERS): These teams will administer their first round of embedded assessments in Spring 2010.

GEC members also discussed the need to develop a reporting process for department heads in which they would be asked to provide a written response discussing core assessment results on a regular cycle. The GEC will begin work on such a reporting process this semester.

1. Phase Four: The GEC discussed the recruitment of faculty teams for Phase Four of the project. In examining the learning outcomes that may need further documentation, the GEC decided to focus on recruiting teams to work on the following outcomes:

**Outcome 5:**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles and proficiency in laboratory practices.

**Outcome 6:**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences

**Outcome 7:**

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written and visual materials.

**Outcome 8:**

Students will demonstrate knowledge of principles of ethics and their employment in the analysis and resolution of moral problems

Some possible courses discussed included the following: SOCI 1101, ANTH 1102, AFAM/WGST 2020, HIST 1011-1013, ASTR 1000, CHEM (multiple possibilities), PHSC 1100, MATH 1101, COMM 1110, PERS Area 1 (2110-2199), POLS 2401, DANC 1500, MCL. These courses must be cross-checked with the designated outcomes for these courses (available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/documents/matrixGenEdoutcomestocorecourses.pdf>).

The GEC should be prepared to conduct our three usual workshops for faculty teams (perhaps a schedule such as February 25, March 25, April 29).