

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
Minutes
Tuesday, September 28, at 2 p.m.
Nevins 1060C

Members in Attendance: Byron Brown, John Gaston, Sheri Gravett, Jane Kinney, James LaPlant, Kent Moore
Guests: Arlene Gaumond, Stanley Jones, Lisa Long, Walter Peacock, Karen Shepard

1. Update on Proposed Learning Outcomes: Sheri Gravett
 - Passed Faculty Senate on September 16
 - Submitted to USG General Education Council for October 26 meeting
 - If needed, the USG GEC meets again on December 20
2. Information from Workshop in Macon on September 17: Sheri Gravett and James LaPlant
 - Only UGA and Georgia State have outcomes approved so far
 - Learning Outcomes must be
 - College-level competency
 - Advance general goal of the area
 - Measurable
3. Implementation and Transfer Issues Related to the new core implementation: GEC and Admissions and Registrar's Offices

Concerns were discussed about the following portion of the new core policy:

*"Students successfully completing a course in one institution's Area A-E will receive full credit in Areas A-E for the course upon transfer to another System institution as long as (a) the course is within the Area hours limitations of either the sending institution **OR** receiving institution and (b) the student does not change from a non-science major to a science major."*

"Students who transfer after having completed the US/GL/CT requirements of sending institution may not be required to complete the US/GL/CT requirements of the receiving institution. Students who transfer after having completed Areas A-E but without having completed the US/GL/CT requirements must complete the US/GL/CT requirements at the receiving institution."

Questions were raised about several issues:

- (1) How to place courses from USG institutions that will have differing hour requirements in core areas;
- (2) How to indicate whether students have met the overlay requirements and how that information will be correctly and effectively communicated to advisors and students;
- (3) How should VSU treat these overlays if students have met the course requirement from the transfer institution but that institution did not have the overlay located in that course (i.e., the critical thinking requirement will be in VSU's Area A, but how will we judge that requirement if a student took ENGL 1101, ENGL 1102, and MATH at another institution but the critical thinking requirement was in another area that the student did not complete?)

In preparation for these changes, this group made several recommendations:

- (1) Designate and train transfer advisors in the various advising centers and in departments. These advisors could assist their colleagues with transfer advising issues.
- (2) Urge the USG to post the new approved core curriculums for all institutions as soon as they are approved. The BOR website currently has a page with links to core curriculum requirements at all USG institutions at http://www.usg.edu/academic_programs/information/core_curriculum_requirements_for_usg_colleges_and_universities/. It would be helpful to post both the old and the new cores so Admissions and Registrars' Offices throughout the system could begin preparations.

4. Discussion of Current Assessment Data: GEC

Once VSU does have new learning outcomes and overlays in place, the GEC will need to plan future workshops to assist those faculty teams who are already collecting assessment data. However, the GEC should also take time to look at the assessments so far and the data produced to make recommendations: do these assessments appear to be measuring the stated outcomes? Are the results following clearly from the outcomes? Is the data going to be usable in suggesting curricular or pedagogical changes? How will the assessments need to be revised in light of the proposed learning outcome for each area?

Each member of the GEC agreed to review the results below for our next meeting and provide a report, either written or oral with recommendations for the assessment teams. Those items in **bold** are not currently being assessed, but assessments will need to be developed as part of our proposed new overlays:

Byron Brown A1 (includes CT): **ENGL 1101**, ENGL 1102 (Regents' Test Exemption)

Anita Hufft A2 (includes CT): MATH 1101, MATH 1111

James LaPlant B: PERS 2160, 2730

John Gaston (COA courses) and Jane Kinney (COAS courses, ENGL courses include Global Overlay)

C (includes GL): ENGL 2110, ENGL 2110H, ENGL 2120, ENGL 2120H, ENGL 2130, ENGL2130H, ART 1100, ART 1100H, COMM 1100, MUSC 1100, THEA 1100, PHIL 2010, PHIL 2010H, REL 2020, SPAN 1002

Brian Gerber D: ASTR 1010K, ASTR 1020K, BIOL 1010/1020L, BIOL 1030/1040L, CHEM 1211L, CHEM 1212L, GEOL 1121K

Kent Moore E (includes US): POLS 1101, POLS 1101H, **HIST 2111**, **HIST 2111H**, HIST 2112, HIST 2112H, (HIST courses include US Overlay) PSYC 2500, PSYC 2500H

Proposed new outcomes and overlays are available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/>. All team worksheets and feedback reports are available at the password-protected part of that site under "Pilot Project Assessments."

5. GEC Meeting Dates for Fall: October 26, and November 23 at 2 p.m. in Nevins 1060C