

General Education Meeting
Minutes
March 30, 2015

Members Present: Byron Brown, Jane Kinney, Catherine Schaeffer, Gayle Taylor, Lai Orenduff

Members Absent: Mark Smith

Guests Present: Michael Black

- Approval of the minutes from February 16, 2015 as corrected.

Core Curriculum: Examples of faculty projects that make our Core classes more viable. Two guests, Dr. Leslie Jones, recipient of the first Presidential Fellowship Teaching Award (2015), and Dr. Susan Wehling, recipient of Pedagogical Innovation Grantees for 2015-16 (Idea Center) presented their projects.

- Guest: **Dr. Leslie Jones**, Biology Department: "Patterns in Nature: The Inspiration for the Nature of Science." The course will be an ILO (Interactive Learning Online) that will be the equivalent of a one semester laboratory science course. It will be built for "Competency-Based Assessment" toward completion.
 - Course designed to be more viable for our student population: how the sciences are integrated with our daily lives
 - Course designed for non-science majors as an option in the Core AREA D
 - Course integrates the major sciences and the scientific processes.
 - Course will work with current publishers like McGraw Hill or Pearson to create an online component that is customized for the students (individualized).
 - Course takes advantage of new technology.
 - Content is divided into units: Patterns, Knowledge, Content, Inquiry, Implications.
 - Covers key concepts like cause/effect, form/truth, cycles, matter/energy to show how all sciences (Astronomy, Earth Sciences, Ecology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics) are integrated and share the same issues.
 - Last unit, Implications, covers technology, sociocultural issues, political issues, ethics, etc.
 - Interactive, early involvement
 - Activities/assignments based on enjoyment, exploration, explanation, evolutions, and extensions
- Guest: **Dr. Susan Wehling**, Department of Modern and Classical Languages: A high-impact course for the Core Curriculum based on the novel by Sonia Nazario, *Enrique's Journey*.
 - Proposed Perspectives class (AREA B)
 - Team-taught between Classical and Modern Languages and History Department
 - Interdisciplinary: includes languages, sociology, political science, psychology, history, geography, health

- Local (includes Valdosta), regional (Lowndes County), and global (Central America and/or any country with immigrants) implications
- Integrates both Perspectives classes (2+2) for a total of 4 credits
- Includes a capstone experience
- A lot of hands-on activities
- Individual lecture sections with periodic combined class sessions for discussions and projects
- Real-life activities (immersion) and application of learning: not just theoretical and abstract
- Teaches collaboration and team-building

On-going discussion of action-steps to be continued at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.