12-7-2016

General Education Committee Meeting: 2016 : 12 : 07

General Education Committee

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Committee Members in Attendance
Anthony Stamatoplos
Rick Smith
Hugh LaFollette
Adrian O’Connor
Michelle Madden
Kathy Carvalho-Knighton
David John
Morgan Gresham
Liz Southard

Unable to Attend
DeAnna Michael
Cynthia Collins

Exit Courses
- Majors’ responsible for own capstone courses
- shouldn’t be highly technical course
- need a new language
- should be designed as Liberal Arts Capstone Course
- currently unclear purpose of Exit courses
- GE Committee may need to come up with the "big idea/design" for Exit courses; suggestion: reflection of GE curriculum but design for every student
- ISSUE: getting faculty to buy into it and change their current courses to a broader Liberal Arts style course
- these courses should 25 person seminar style classes which is how the catalogue already describes them
- ISSUE: USFSP does not have the full-time faculty to teach these numbers, so possibly allow “specially vetted adjuncts” to teach as well as full-time faculty

Large portion of USFSP students come in with all GE credits, yet faculty have to certify that students have this education without teaching them the material

SACS change
- “Principles of Accreditation” changing
- USFSP will need to assess GE courses and show how it is using assessment data for continuous improvement; “Closing the Circle”
- Exit Courses should be part of assessment process
- Exit Courses need to fulfill a critical role for SACS and everyone needs to understand this; everyone will need to work together
- SACS moving towards a “Refocus on Student Success” “Educated Non-Specialist”
- ISSUE: squeeze on faculty either way- if require full-time faculty to teach exit, then end up with adjuncts teaching GE core
- Enrollments down across the country

- Spring 2017 Focus
  - SACS Change
  - MAP
  - Revamp Exit Courses
    - Can we find a way to make it required for students to take Exit Courses on SP campus?
    - ISSUE: Would need to create new course numbers for Exit Courses
    - Will require a lot of paperwork, but will be worth it because we can build a proposal and create the requirements discussed at GE Day and during this meeting
    - SCNS- find new course numbers
    - Registrar nightmare to restrict current process
    - Will new competencies impact our current Exit Course SLOs?
    - Committee needs to develop plan of action for Exit Courses and revisit at next meeting

- Assessment Protocols- data shifting, but we are starting to shift towards what SACS wants
  - maybe ok if currently messy because shows we are working towards improvement
  - 5 year plan
    - data not as important
    - clear path needs to demonstrated
  - Missing- Program level pieces
    - Need to show how each GE Area is improving rather than just courses

- MWF Scheduling
  - no mandate for MWF courses, but is being encouraged
  - option to hold classes WF

- Committee agrees to GE Core course Review Process
  - 5 year Area rotation, begin with Mathematics
  - structured round-table discussion with teaching faculty during both semesters
  - meet with program chair/department