Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee  
February 29, 2016  
Library Biella Room  
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Eric Fricke, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Yi Karnes, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Aline Soules, Nancy Thompson Mitchell Watnik.
Absent: Luz Calvo.
Guests: Linda Ivey, Danika LeDuc, Donna Wiley, Maureen Scharberg, Mike Hedrick, Margaret Rustick, Julie Stein.

The Chair (Glass) called the meeting to order at 2:03.

1. Approval of the agenda. (M Soules/S Liberti/P). This was moved to first on the agenda, with Social Justice second.

2. Social Justice comments: LeDuc noted that the “articulate principles of social justice” might give the impression that there is a set that must be enumerated, as opposed to a context-dependent information. Glass noted that the phrase did not have the word “the” to mandate specific information. Someone suggested removing “principles of”, but there were points about that. It was suggested that “concepts” replace “principles”, but the words mirror the diversity outcomes. The phrasing “Use a disciplinary perspective to analyze issues of social justice as they relate to inequity.” There were concerns expressed about whether some courses already exist in this area. LeDuc noted that, for example, Chemistry spent time transformational time to allow sufficient course time to address these issues. There were comments about the overlaps between the social justice overlay and both the diversity and sustainability overlays. One person asked why this is a separate overlay. A subcommittee member noted that diversity might be an element within social justice. A commenter suggested allowing one course to satisfy numerous overlays. Glass said that this would give preference to multiple overlay courses. At the conclusion of this, the subcommittee moved to report of the chair.

3. Approval of the minutes of Feb. 22. The subcommittee did not get to this item.

4. Reports
   a. Chair. Glass introduced Dean of Undergraduate Studies Maureen Scharberg to the subcommittee. She expressed excitement in taking on her new job. In response to a question, she said that her top priority is semester conversion. Retention and graduation are important and keep freshmen in the clusters. Pre-nursing students who don’t get into the bachelor’s program are an issue and using proactive advising to assist the students. She was asked about her relationship with the other (college) deans and said her role is evolving. Glass noted the issue of a cap of 30 in upper division C and D is one that needs to be addressed with a funding model. Scharberg said that she is aware of this. It was noted that some
departments use (large) GE to subsidize other departmental functions. Scharberg argued that the issue isn’t as clear cut as indicated, that there may be other resources, such as peer advising or supplemental instruction. Scharberg discussed a study she performed regarding advising at SF State. At the conclusion of this, the subcommittee moved to 5a.

b. GE Director. The subcommittee did not get to this item.
c. Semesters. The subcommittee did not get to this item.

5. Business:
   a. Discussion of Writing II requirement with Margaret Rustick. Rustick brought a handout of a document proposed by the Writing Skills Subcommittee. She noted that the framework proposed that the Writing II course may be upper division. She said that there are reasons to get the students to write earlier. Transfer students who don’t have second comp from their community college might be allowed to take upper division second comp, but she believes that most students should be mandated to take the course in lower division. Some students find out about the second comp course only while filing to graduate and have to challenge the course. Rustick said that faculty, in general, prefer more writing. Faculty might envision courses in many disciplines, but the actual implementation tends to heavily involve English, Philosophy, Psychology, and Ethnic Studies. The draft proposed outcomes emphasize that “context is everything.” There was conversation about funding for these courses. Rustick noted that SFSU requires every department to have a course. Glass noted that this course would have to have an upper division option so that high-unit major can use it for transfer students. Rustick noted this could be a required course for all majors and that it might be redundant for native students, but subcommittee members disagreed. Rustick said that second comp might be allowed to double-count with GE or be a second-tier (UWSR) course.

6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM so members could attend the Chancellor’s forum.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary