Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee  
March 28, 2016  
SF 329  
2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Eric Fricke, Julie Glass, Yi Karnes, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Aline Soules, Nancy Thompson, Mitchell Watnik  
Absent: Zach Hallab.  
Guests: Alina Engelman, Glen Perry, Carl Stempel.

The Chair (Glass) called the meeting to order at 2:05.

1. Approval of the agenda. (M Soules/S Calvo/P).

2. Approval of the minutes of March 7. (M Calvo/S Liberti/P).

3. Reports  
   a. Chair. No report.  
   b. GE Director. Thompson indicated that a call would go out for her replacement for September. She will retire at the end of the calendar year. Subcommittee members wished her well.  
   c. Semester Conversion. No report.

4. New Business  
   a. Finalize Overlay Outcomes and forward to CIC.  
      There was a discussion about the document on google. Soules suggested not listing specific diversity groups in diversity outcome 4. Calvo disagreed, but suggested changing “ability status and mental illness” to “disabilities”. (M Calvo/S Liberti/P) to make the aforementioned change. There was dissent. Stempel suggested emphasizing US diversity, including “American race relations”. Soules argued in favor of international diversity. Calvo argued for US racial issues. (M Soules/S Karnes/NP) to strike the “for example” groups in outcome 4 for diversity. There was some discussion about this motion. It was clarified that the for example listed the differences within groups and the phrasing was changed accordingly. Fricke pointed out that the third outcome (which has race and gender) might be a special case of the fourth.

Regarding sustainability, the subcommittee discussed a couple of “and/or” lists. The first was listed as “and” and the last was preserved as “and”. 
(M Nielsen/S Bliss/P) to send the overlay outcomes to CIC. There was an abstention.

b. Biology 3080. (M Nielsen/S Thompson/P) to recommend B6 credit under quarters.

c. Further discussion regarding Writing II. There was discussion about whether second comp courses could count towards GE. It says in the framework that it cannot, but the Writing Skills Subcommittee might recommend that it could. Thompson pointed out that WSS wants to have upper division classes satisfy the Writing Skills Requirement. Glass pointed out that high-unit majors don’t want that class (because the writing skills test satisfies the requirement without a course), but want the second comp course.

d. Cluster Structure. The subcommittee will invite Dean Scharberg to the next meeting to discuss with us.

e. Freshman research discussion (Dr. Diana Balgas, 3:00pm time certain). Balgas visited with the subcommittee. She was explaining some results from her dissertation. She explained that one of the biggest predictors for Latinos to graduate was whether they completed English 1001 by the end of sophomore year. General factors that lead to graduation (within 6 years) were non-Pell, living off campus, first-year GPA, students who completed remediation within 2 years, college level math and English in first 2 years. For Latinos, English, high school GPA, continuous enrollment, enrollment in Summer. The subcommittee asked about recommendations for clusters. Balgas mentioned that block registration at orientation, helping sophomores get classes. Thompson added that connecting GS to discipline faculty might be helpful. She noted that better integration would be helpful. Balgas was asked about sophomore clusters. She said that she was at Hayward when the second-year clusters were dissolved and feels that it would be helpful, as it gives structure. It was noted that library and critical thinking (and, to an extent, first comp) would probably fall in the second year.

5. Adjournment. (M Soules/S Karnes/P). The meeting was adjourned at 4:00. The subcommittee will meet next week at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary