Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee  
May 23, 2016  
SF 329  
2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Luz Calvo, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Yi Karnes, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Nancy Thompson, Mitchell Watnik.  
Absent: Eric Fricke, Maureen Scharberg, Aline Soules.  
Guests: Tom Bickley, Glen Perry, Lettie Ramirez.  

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

1. Approval of the agenda. (M Nielsen/S Thompson/P).

2. Minutes.

   a. Approval of the minutes of May 16. (M Bliss/S Calvo/P). There were abstentions.

   b. The Minutes from May 9 (M Bliss/S Thompson/P) were approved.

3. Reports

   a. Chair. Overlays were approved by the Senate. A stray asterisk was removed. The American Institution outcomes were approved. The Writing II document from the Writing Skills Subcommittee got a first reading. There was discussion about the relative lack of discussion at the Senate regarding the lower division requirement. It was noted that many of the departments were aware of the GE proposal and were okay with the change, provided the GE proposal was also accepted. GE members were renewed for next year, according to Watnik. There is budget to fund subcommittee members over the summer, if they want to do GE approvals over the summer, but that might preclude department representatives from coming. GE Director. The GE Office has received dozens of requests and is processing them. Those requests must be approved by both the Director and the undergraduate dean. Some are ready for the subcommittee, but won’t be seen until 16-17, per the request of the subcommittee. There have been a few applicants for the Director position.

   b. Semester Conversion. Nobody was present to deliver the report.

4. Business

   a. Revisiting Sophomore Year Experience. Glass reminded the subcommittee that the intent is to have reserved seats (or sections) for block enrollments. Writing II, A3, (perhaps) A1, and other GE courses may be substituted for major courses. The courses would
volunteer for this blocking in response to an RFP from Undergraduate Studies. Ramirez said she spoke with GS courses and many of the students expressed interest in cluster-like structure for sophomore, in particular being able to sign up for relevant courses. Currently, AACE advisors go to most GS courses. A few of the instructors (less than 5 of the 60 sections) don’t invite AACE, many of the instructors who do this used to be advisors, themselves. The GS sessions are only about 5 minutes though. It was pointed out that GS will be 15 hours, not 10 and could be mandated to have an hour with AACE advisors around first pass registration. The second year experience could thereby be pushed. This could be done by restricting courses to have sophomore preference enrollment during first pass. History and Ethnic Studies both have sophomore specific courses waiting. The Undergraduate Studies office could have an RFP and determine complementary sophomore blocks.

b. Thoughts on 3 unit Area E for Transfer.

c. Organization for reviewing courses. Calvo noted that it took SFSU 3 years to do GE approvals after a transformation. SFSU had committees for each area (A, B, etc.). Watnik said that there is nothing precluding the subcommittee from doing likewise. Calvo advocated for not having formal meetings during the summer and for doing reviews by department. There was discussion about reading proposals (with funding), though Glass pointed out that the subcommittee should have a “norming” session. There was also a discussion about having a summer meeting for “non-controversial” proposals. The consensus was that we wouldn’t have formal meetings in the summer and the first meeting would have a norming session. Hallab requested D, Calvo requested D, Liberti asked for C, Glass B, Nielsen and Bickley (for Soules) asked for A and E, Scharberg was assigned C. Bliss requested C. Karnes requested D (she indicated that she is likely to replaced). The GE Director will be assigned to B (perhaps she will be swapped with Scharberg). Fricke was assigned to A and E. There was discussion about area E beginning with the question about whether non-information literacy area E courses had to be upper division (they don’t). However, there were issues as to whether students might try to skirt around information literacy (library). One suggestion was to call the native requirements “E1” and the transfer requirements “E2”. Another suggestion was to force students to take the Library course before reaching junior status. There was renewed discussion about sophomore block enrollment. (M Thompson/S Liberti/P) to require the third unit of area E be the Library’s information literacy class. Scharberg said that students could have a hold placed that required them to take the course before enrolling after earning 60 units.

5. Adjournment. (M Glass/S Karnes/P). The meeting was adjourned at 3:56. Glass thanked the subcommittee members for their work.
Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary