

General Education Committee Final Report

Membership:

Norwood, Barbara, NURS, Chair
Balazs, Thomas ENGL
Barbosa, Jose BIOL
Carter, Pamela TEA PREP
Darken, Betsy MATH
Evans, Lorraine SAG
Jones, Rebecca ENGL
Lindsay, Anne ART
Plaisted, Dennis (sabbatical spring semester) PHIL
Whitson, Kristen PHYS
Assoc. Prov. for Acad. Affrs: designee Karen Adsit, WTRC

Meetings and accomplishments of the General Education Committee

Meetings began before the official start of the academic year on August 2, 2010. The committee met a total of 11 times. We began the year with a look to revising the general education outcomes and presented a proposal to UTC faculty in the spring following approval from the faculty senate. There was only one reading of the proposal by faculty and that reading passed with a majority. Subsequently informal conversations across campus revealed some faculty expressing a concern that there were not enough campus-wide discussions before the proposal was brought to the faculty at large for a vote. Therefore the committee decided to abandon the proposal for the current academic year.

Instead in April the committee presented a proposal to the faculty senate to declare a moratorium on certifications and re-certifications for the 2011-2012 academic year which was passed by an overwhelming majority. This moratorium will give the committee the time needed to have conversations across campus about what outcomes the general education categories can accomplish with the goal to bring the general education program in line with best practices in general education and to develop a curriculum that is a valued and valuable experience for students, faculty, and administrators. Following these discussions, the committee will prepare another revision that will be presented to the faculty at large for a vote. If the revision is passed, the committee will revise the rubrics used by committee members to evaluate the courses and make these forms readily available to all faculty. Additionally the committee will require that faculty submitting materials for course recertification specifically discuss how the course addresses each general education requirement for the category in which the course seeks certification. Further the committee will devise a plan to clearly inform and engage students during orientations (or other appropriate times) regarding the purposes of general education courses and what they can expect to gain from these courses.

The committee will also seek to reorganize its committee structure to include a chair elect and to develop a process for continuous quality improvement for the general

education curriculum and outcomes. The chair will develop and implement a plan to orient new members to the committee.

The committee reviewed 4 courses that had been placed on probation during the 2009-2010. All of these courses had been revised to address the concerns of the previous year thus all were recertified. Additionally 33 courses were reviewed for recertification. Of these, 1 was decertified based on general education policy due to not being offered during the past 5 years, 13 were placed on probation and 19 were recertified.

The committee appreciates the support of both the Records Office for their work in getting student petitions ready for committee review and the Walker Teaching Resource Center for assisting with the very helpful visit and consultation from Dr. Paul Watson. The Chair especially appreciates all the long hours and diligent work of the committee members and their willingness to see the process of revision through to its end.

Respectfully submitted,

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