

**General Education Steering Committee
Conference Call
August 15, 2012 10 – 11:15 EDT**

Participants

Judy Bilsky, FSCJ
Pam Menke, MDC
Sharon Erle, NFCC
Leana Revell, SFSC
Karen Borglum, VC
Doug Robertson, FIU
Karen Laughlin, FSU
Diane Chase, UCF
Bernard Mair, UF

Mark Workman, UNF
Barbara Howard, LSCC
George Bishop, GCSC
Craig Johnson, HCC
Tom Westcott, UWF
Jim Wohlpart, FGCU
Donald Palm, FAMU
Bob Sullins, USF
Edward Pratt, FAU

Heather Sherry, House Staff
Matthew Bouck, ACC
Amanda Register, ACC
Jan Ignash, BOG
Jon Rogers, BOG
Lynda Page, BOG
Julie Alexander, DFC
Shanna Autry, DFC
Pat Frohe, DFC

Meeting Materials

Matthew Bouck identified the materials that were submitted to Steering Committee members and alternates. The listing of general education courses distributed to the Steering Committee includes Florida College System course enrollments, but does not yet include State University System course enrollments. Mr. Bouck explained that this partial listing was meant to highlight the challenges being faced by the committees as they begin to work. He will follow up to ensure the SUS enrollments are included in a later list of courses.

Meeting Purpose

Mr. Bouck stated that the staff from ACC, BOG and DFC need guidance and recommendations from the Steering Committee in determining the process for selecting faculty committees, guiding the work of the faculty committees, for providing outcomes, and input on the draft Project Timeline that was distributed.

Steering Committee

The meeting packet included a draft document entitled “General Education Project Steering Committee Composition, Rule, and Responsibilities.” This document served as a reference, but current and imminent roles for the Steering Committee focused on the following:

- From this point forward, the Steering Committee will serve as spokespeople to the Legislature, ACC, SBE, BOG and other entities
- Guide and monitor faculty committee selection criteria and determine who will be recommended for selection
- Provide input on the Project Timeline. Section 1007.25, F.S. has established the implementation for incoming students in 2014-15, so effective time management is essential.
- SUS needs to determine a Steering Committee co-chair. Judy Bilsky is the co-chair for the FCS.

Question – Will the Steering Committee (and alternates) be copied on all communication? Yes.

Project Timeline

Mr. Bouck introduced a discussion on the DRAFT Project Timeline, to include:

- ACC presentation – October 24
- Forum for public comment by February, 2013
- Final recommendations by April 2013
- After final recommendations are approved, begin information distribution to institutions to provide a year for preparations to implement

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the DRAFT timeline. Comments included that the timeline is very tight and/or the 2014-15 implementation is not feasible, especially considering the formidable and complex tasks ahead. Some felt that more detail/further breakdown of activities should be included on the timeline, to include institutional activities such as faculty senate reporting, work on the remaining 15 hours of general education, admissions decisions, and hiring/personnel issues. We must move forward steadily, keeping 2014-15 in mind. Committee members were encouraged to submit additional suggestions to Mr. Bouck, and the draft will be revised as appropriate.

Faculty Nominations- Form/Selection Criteria

- Each institution will have a maximum of five faculty nominations, one per each general education area
- Should all 38 institutions be included in some way in the process? Not necessarily, but it would be advantageous if it could work out that way
- Size of committees should be manageable; not all nominees will be selected
- SUS and FCS will have an equal number of faculty selected
- Faculty selection at institutions is a political issue at many institutions
- If the Humanities faculty representative is one person (for example), h/she must be able to represent the broader view
- For those general education areas in which multiple disciplines may be represented, it will be left to the institutions' area definition in nominating a faculty member
- The Steering Committee determined that 12-person faculty committees is a useful starting point in determining committee size
- The Steering Committee agreed to move forward with the selection process before the face-to-face September meeting
- The importance of selection criteria should not be overlooked, and the draft nomination form should be expanded to include "highest degree earned," years of teaching experience," and "rationale for selection"
- Mr. Bouck will revise the nomination form to an online survey format and submit to Jan Ignash and Julie Alexander for distribution to the FCS and SUS Chief Academic Officers. The deadline for institution submissions will be September 14.

Comments Regarding Core Courses

- Date for establishment of Core Courses? December 2012 or January 2013?
- Should the overall area competencies be set first—or should identification of the five courses come first? How will this be determined?
- The additional 15 credits to complete the general education requirement could be tabled until after core is established
- There was some discussion about Humanities, which is very broad and may be under various departments, depending on institution. History may fall under Humanities or Social Science, and Literature may be under Communications or Humanities. Each institution's definition of humanities should be considered. Perhaps this situation can be resolved as it is worked through.
- Common prerequisites are an issue; how will the GE plan impact common prerequisites?

September Meeting

- Should be held approximately one week after faculty nominations are due
- Faculty nominations will be completed via an online survey with a deadline of September 14
- Mr. Bouck will send a Doodle poll for meeting dates and times during the week of September 17-21, preferably in the Tampa or Orlando area