

**General Education Council
Minutes
Monday, September 22, 2014**

Members present: Byron Brown, Jeremy Tost, Jane Kinney, Mark Smith, Lai Orenduff

Members absent: Catherine Schaeffer, Gayle Taylor, and a LCOBA representative not yet appointed

Guests: Sheri Gravett, Michael Black

1. Our Mission for this year: From the following objectives charged to the General Education Council, we will decide on our area of focus for the 2014-2015 academic year. In prior years, the GEC was successful in implementing an assessment schedule and new assessment tools, and collection of data from specific core classes is underway. This year we will select a different objective while continuing to build on the accomplishments of the previous years. Discussion for the GEC mission for this year might include the first two listed critical responsibilities because the **Comprehensive Core Curriculum Review** for the General Education Program is scheduled for this year. Not only is this comprehensive review necessary for USG and SACSCOC, it provides an opportunity for us to review our Core Curriculum and improve on areas as needed or to include new ways of presenting important learning opportunities to all our students.
2. The General Education Council addresses issues central to Valdosta State University's General Education Curriculum. This Council has a number of critical responsibilities, including:
 - Overseeing and maintaining the integrity of VSU's core curriculum;
 - Promoting the importance and quality of core curriculum courses in VSU's colleges and departments;
 - Providing guidelines, assistance, and review to departments proposing new courses in the core curriculum;
 - Establishing and reviewing policies related to the transfer of core curriculum courses;
 - Collecting, examining, and reporting on current assessment data on the core curriculum, in particular looking at how well student learning outcomes for the core curriculum are currently being met;
 - Developing and implementing an assessment plan specific to the core curriculum.
3. Jeremy Tost presented background information on the new core assessment guidelines, plan and report which he and Katherine Adams developed in 2013. They, with the help of the GEC, designed assessments reporting system to gauge student success in meeting the General Education learning outcomes.

4. Michael Black presented an overview of faculty use of the new core assessment planning tool. The following reports were submitted by the respective department heads during 2013-14 to the GEC:

- ART 1100: Introduction to Visual Arts
- BIOL 1107: Principles of Biology I
- CHEM 1151K: Survey of Chemistry I
- CHEM 1152K: Survey of Chemistry I
- CHEM 1211: Principles of Chemistry I
- CHEM 1211L: Principles of Chemistry Laboratory I
- CHEM 1212: Principles of Chemistry II
- CHEM 1212L: Principles of Chemistry Laboratory II
- ECON 1500/1500H: Survey of Economics
- ENGL 1101: Composition I
- ENGL 2112: World Literature II
- GEOG 1112K: Introduction to Weather and Climate
- GEOG 1113K: Introduction to Landforms
- HIST 2112: US History Since 1865
- MATH 2261: Calculus I
- PERS 2110: Ethics and Technology
- POLS 1101: American Government
- POLS 2401: Global Issues
- SOCI 1160: Introduction to Social Problems

The reporting response rate was less than 100%, so an email will be sent to the Department Heads requesting their reports from last year and also to remind them that their assessment participation is an important part of our efforts to maintain academic integrity.

5. Discussed procedures for the GEC to conduct Program Review for General Education this year. L. Orenduff has identified faculty to represent Areas A, C, D, and E to participate in the SWOT analysis for program review. The Perspectives Advisory Committee will cover Area B. We will meet with the faculty group on October 6 at 3:00pm to discuss the process. Each subcommittee will produce a document which we will consolidate for the General Education program review.

6. Shared invitation to the TIES Conference, held at VSU on Feb. 18-20, 2015.