**General Education Advisory Council**

Friday, 20 January 2017

12:00-1:00PM

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present**: Professor Don Ransford, Dr. Brian Page, Dr. Rebecca Harris, Dr. Amy Trogan, Professor Jane Charles, Professor William Van Glabek, Professor Kelly Roy, Dr. Eileen DeLuca, Professor Sindee Karpel, Dr. Myra Walters

**Absent**: Dr. Wendy Chase, Dr. Erik Fay

\*Faculty and staff from the School of Health Professions are present to discuss curricular revisions. Dr. Martin McClinton is also present to represent PAS and SoAHSS.

1. Minutes from the October meeting will be approved at the February meeting.

2. The GEAC and a group of faculty and staff discuss a proposal to change the general education requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Science. Below is a summary of some major points/conclusions from the discussion.

a. The proposed changes would eliminate Speech from the Communication requirement, as well as reduce the Humanities requirement to 3 hours (HUM part A only). There would be an increase in social science hours and/or physical science hours.

b. The major question at issue is whether or not the college can have 2 or more general education program requirements/pathways. With input from Professor Ransford, Dr. DeLuca, Dr. Harris, and Dr. McClinton, the conclusion is reached that the statute does not allow for multiple programs/program requirements (see statute). GEAC summarizes research into other Florida colleges and universities, and could not find any examples of colleges with multiple general education curricula, though some schools do allow for flexibility or ranges.

c. Members of the committee provide clarification on the “A.A” vs “baccalaureate” general education program. The 36 hours for general education are not the “AA degree”, which is 60 hours, or “AA Gen Ed”, but required of all FSW students graduating with a baccalaureate degree or an associate of arts.

d. Several faculty from the committee and Dr. Walters underscore the purpose of general education, which is not to provide discipline-specific preparation, but to provide the broad-based educational vision chosen by the faculty of the college. Dr. Walters and Dr. DeLuca emphasize that general education should provide a robust broad-based liberal education, taught by faculty with expertise in their discipline.

e. AAS-BS or AS-BS are specific pathways to a degree that have had some unfortunate consequences because the transfer degrees were originally conceived as terminal degrees, but now are one of the ways students may come to a baccalaureate degree. That has meant that a long AS or AAS program (70+ hours) necessarily adds time and credit hours for the student (not the baccalaureate program) when transferring into a baccalaureate degree program, since transfer was not the original intended purpose. Dr. Deluca suggests that this issue should be addressed with statewide groups and health professions accrediting bodies. It is a unique challenge to AS-BS programs statewide, versus a traditional BS program. The BS program at FSW adds up to 120 hours, though students who transfer in from a terminal AS or AAS program may personally have more than 120 hours on their transcript.

3. The GEAC agrees to examine the general education program requirements, with possible revisions or increased flexibility, over the summer. Stakeholders from each of the 3 professional schools will be invited to participate with GEAC members. The goal would be to present any changes or refinements to the curriculum committee in Fall 2017. Any changes would need to be reflected in the catalog.

4. Since the committee is out of time, the “Goals for 2016-17” agenda item is moved to the February meeting.