

# General Education Program Review Ad Hoc Committee

Friday, June 12, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus: U-202B

Charlotte Campus: O-118

Collier Campus: G-109

## Minutes

**Attendees:** Professor Jane Charles, Dr. Wendy Chase, Dr. Eileen DeLuca, Dr. Rebecca Harris, Professor George Manacheril, Dr. Brian Page, Professor Don Ransford, Dr. Amy Trogan, Dr. Lisa McGarity

Minutes from the May 29, 2015, meeting were approved with no corrections.

The Chair welcomed Dr. Lisa McGarity to the committee.

In reference to materials that had been shared electronically by various committee members prior to the meeting, the committee voiced an appreciation for the term *transdisciplinary* rather than interdisciplinary. In addition, the suggestion was made to pair the word *technology* with *science* since it is commonly done so in current literature. This led to a lively discussion concerning where and if technology should be included in the general education program.

One train of thought questioned whether technology should be assessed as an outcome of the general education program or assumed to be a tool that was being utilized in assessing other outcomes. If it is the latter, then the suggestion was to include *through the use of technology* in the mission and/or competencies.

Other comments spawned by the technology topic included the importance of computer coding being referenced frequently in the media as an employability skill and various connotations of *digital literacy*, *information literacy*, and *technological literacy*.

The committee then moved on to the discussion of updating the General Education philosophy and competencies. It was generally agreed that the committee would work on developing a concise version of the philosophy and competencies for the catalog and would create a more in-depth document describing a general education course for faculty guidance both of which would be reviewed periodically for possible and/or necessary updates.

Other changes to our current general education program were posited including deemphasizing the number of competencies referenced in a course to be considered as a general education course and replacing the third column in the current syllabus with another possible method of notating general education competencies that are being taught and assessed in a course. It was suggested that the latter

adaptation of the syllabus would likely make mapping the general education program much more viable. Ideas for how to implement the changes to the syllabus were presented based on syllabus designs from other institutions.

Just prior to the conclusion of the meeting, a brief discussion took place concerning the use of *writing as a process, communication literacy versus rhetoric and communication*, and a need to encourage students to take risks to provide the opportunity for nurturing creativity as a response to failure.

In parting, Professor Jane Charles volunteered to compile the ideas that had been shared electronically prior to the meeting into a single list and distribute them to the group. The assignment for the meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> was to review Jane's document and be prepared to start refining the general education philosophy and competencies.