

**General Education Council (GEC)**  
**Minutes – Tuesday, January 28, 2014**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Dean Scoufos at 3:00pm.

**Members Present:** Lucretia Scoufos (Chair), Susan Morrison, Wilma Shires, Glen Melancon, Michael Reed, Robert McFadden, Jane Elder, Steve Smith, John Van Bebbler, Brandon Burnett, Mohamed Chehbouni, Brett Elliott, Kathleen Hardgrove, Robert Howard, Shelby Ragsdale, Cody Bogard

Because the GEC has new members, Dr. Scoufos asked everyone to introduce themselves. After a few words of welcome, she asked each member to say a few words about their philosophy of general education in general and what they envision as the specific role of this general education council.

Some of the items mentioned were:

- i. The general education program should produce well-rounded students that possess a core knowledge base.
- ii. The general education program sometimes serves as a guide to students to help them determine what field of study they may want to pursue.
- iii. The general education council should serve as a “watchdog” or “gatekeeper” in order to maintain the integrity of courses that are accepted as general education courses.
- iv. Occasionally, the general education council should examine the overall general education program and decide if an update/overhaul is needed.
- v. We should occasionally look outside of ourselves and see what other universities are doing with regards to general education.
- vi. We should assess the general education courses to make sure we are really teaching what we claim to be teaching (possibly through peer review)
- vii. We should make sure that our general education program is aligned with our goals, objectives and the stated outcomes of the program
- viii. It was pointed out that RUSO has determined what about 20 of our general education hours will be, but that we can go above and beyond what RUSO requires.
- ix. We need to make sure there is not too much redundancy between our general education courses and later courses in that field of study.
- x. It is often helpful to have senior faculty teaching some of the general education courses.

After the discussion, Dr. Scoufos confirmed that the items brought up, were exactly the sort of things that our council should be examining and are in keeping with the Mission Statement, Vision and Learning Outcomes . She told of her intention to form “teams” of general education council members depending on what our individual strengths and preferences are. She will be sending the members an email soon inquiring about those strengths and preferences.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.  
Minutes by Dr. Brett Elliott.