

**General Education Council
Minutes – February 23, 2010**

Call to Order: 2:05pm.

Members Present: Bryon Clark (chair), Brett Elliott, Lie Qian, Dick Hackett, Nancy Hill, Jane Elder, Kay Daigle, Mark Spencer, Halet Poovey, Robert McFadden, Sharon Morrison, John Van Bebber, Steve McKim, Chip Weiner (ex-officio) and Stephanie Metts (for Jane Hicks).

Approval of Minutes: Robert McFadden made a motion that the minutes from the March meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Mark Spencer and passed unanimously.

Assessment of Levels of Implementation: Dr. Clark shared with the council the assessment flowchart that is included in our monitoring report and mentioned that there are two levels at which we collect data, the university level and the department level. He also gave the council members a listing of the assessment instruments and benchmarks for each learning outcome of the General Education Program.

These instruments and benchmarks are what the departments themselves proposed several years ago to use. A few of the departments seem to have changed some of their assessment protocols and officially those changes should have gone through the assessment committee. Dr. Clark plans to rifle through the info, clean it up and present it to the Gen Ed Council at the next meeting so we can see how “what we say we are doing” compares to “what we are actually doing”.

He also asked the council members to interact with our department chairs to see if there is additional information or modifications that they would like to see in the assessment instruments and benchmarks. He said, however, that it would not be a good idea at this point to deviate from the “big picture”.

General Education Requirements: Dr. Clark questioned whether there are any “pieces missing” in our current General Education Program and whether it might be time for a wholesale review of it. It has been about 15 years since the last wholesale review (for both Southeastern and the State Regents).

Some possible “missing pieces” mentioned by the council members included:

- a) a technical (or professional) writing course (or Writing Across the Curriculum course)
- b) a globalization course
- c) an upper level communications course

With regards to part c) above, Dr. Clark mentioned that the state recommends, but does not require, an upper level course in the General Education program. Also, if we had such a course, it could be used as the capstone course for the Bachelor’s of General Studies degree and could possibly be taught out of the Center for Rhetoric and Professional Development. Dr. Clark will prepare a proposal regarding such a course for our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.