

General Education Committee

7.14.17

Present: Biscoe, Hall, Melder, Barnett, Zering, Gentry, Kelly, McFarland, Serio, Abney

Absent: Granger, Jones, Morris, Mischler, Furr, Dunn, Hicks, Lemoine

Meeting began at 10:03. Abney welcomed group, and presented the draft of SACSCOC Standard 3.5.1.

Abney then asked Hall to share information about the template, which will be used as additional support for 3.5.1; he reviewed this with the group. Essentially, the template material can be migrated for TaskStream and the trend analysis document. This document set and the material that Abney has collected will be posted on a website for easier use during the review.

Hall also asked that everyone's chart contain a target line in addition to the columns which show various data.

Abney stated that she would send the template, sample, and draft of 3.5.1 for review by the committee. The template needs to be emailed to Abney and cc'd to Hall no later than Friday, July 21.

Abney asked that as departments make changes to their assessments that they document participation and review by the faculty through Departmental meeting minutes, which need to be submitted with proposed new assessments to the General Education Committee.

Abney added that she would like our August meeting to focus on research in Gen Ed. Melder indicated that he would like to see other courses added to the competency assessments; Abney shared information about why the current competencies are being assessed as they are. She added that the September meeting, if the Committee concurs, could mark the beginning of discussions about the current assessments and addition of other courses and assessments.

A discussion of expansion of assessments ensued, and Dr. Gentry indicated that an AASCU meeting or institute or other Gen Ed Conference would be useful. She proposed either sending committee members or inviting someone for PD on this topic.

Gentry thanked everyone for their hard work on this response.

After a final recap of deadlines, the meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Abney

## **Core Curriculum-General Education Competencies Meeting 15 April 2017**

**Attendees:** Vickie Gentry, Lisa Abney, Frank Serio, Veronica Biscoe, Steve Hicks, Susan Barnett, Fran Lemoine, John Dunn, Joe Morris, Frank Hall, Paula Furr, Greg Granger, Jim Mischler, Mark Melder, Dorothy Jones, Jennifer Kelly

Dr. Gentry opened the meeting with an introduction of the SACSCOC report. The SACSCOC team indicated there is concern about use of assessment data in decision making regarding curricula. Dr. Gentry reiterated the need for data collected to be reviewed each semester, and after consideration by faculty/Department Head/Directors, decisions should be made regarding changes necessary either to the assessment or the curriculum; changes, if made, should be substantive. This group and departments should be meeting at a minimum of 2 times per year to discuss. Departmental meetings regarding assessment changes should be documented through minutes, and these minutes should be posted in TaskStream and shared with Ms. Biscoe and Dr. Abney.

Dr. Gentry inquired about the meeting with the SACSCOC team with Department Heads, and they indicated that their response had been that, in general, little beyond the departmental level was being done with the data. Essentially, only departments knew the status of the data and changes made within the departments. All agreed that data should be shared with the University Assessment Committee and across campus.

Ms. Biscoe reminded the committee that not only will the General Education committee benefit this data but other departments and committees will rely upon these data also. Dr. Hall added that this Committee's Chair will report to the Assessment Committee, and then the Assessment Committee members will be charged with taking the information back to the departmental level. Dr. Abney added that perhaps a link to the assessment changes/reports could be sent out campus wide also.

2016-2017 Data should be entered into TaskStream as it is collected. Findings should be added, and the action plan should include a summary of findings and recommendations. Departmental faculty should be involved in the review of data and discussion of changes to be made to assessments. May 17, 2017 is the deadline for entering data from Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. Ms. Biscoe will provide a template for recording three years' worth of data. This will assist department heads and faculty in deciding to make changes to assessments or curricula. The due date for this chart is 5.22.17.

The 2017-2018 Changes will be updated in TaskStream after the trend analysis has been performed.

This committee will meet at the end of 5.23.17 at 9:00 in the Caspari 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Conference Room to discuss trends and areas to be adjusted. Assessment changes should be piloted this summer. Each attendee should bring copies of his/her analysis/template for the committee.

Ms. Biscoe suggested that some departments may want to consider using a nationally normed instrument. Using a nationally normed instrument will help departments compare University data to peer institutions. Committee members asked that departments have input into what instrument is chosen.

The meeting was concluded at 10:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Abney and Jennifer Kelly

University Core Curriculum Assessment Meeting  
5.23.17 9:00 a.m.  
Henderson Conference Room

Members present: Abney, Biscoe, Hall, Morris, Serio, Mischler, D. Jones, Lemoine, Handel, Dunn, Hicks

The meeting convened at 9:02, and members who wished to make changes to assessment items were asked to discuss the changes and reasons for changing the assessments. Lemoine, Dunn, Serio, and Mischler indicated changes would be made either to content of the assessments, types of assessments, or targets. Each presented data from TaskStream and charts/reports to illustrate the decisions to alter assessments/targets based upon data from 2014-15/2015-16/2016-17. These new assessments/targets will be implemented this summer.

D. Jones discussed the Economics 2000 assessment, and data. No changes will be made to this assessment at this time. Morris was then asked if other changes would be made in his area; he indicated assessments would remain as they are now. Biscoe mentioned that Granger and she would work together if any were planned for PLSC.

During the meeting, Serio mentioned that it is difficult to assess the statistics component of the Regents Competencies using Math 1020/1035/1060 as the statistics unit is a stand-alone unit in the course and does not seamlessly integrate into the courses. The group discussed where statistics might be measured alternatively. Abney indicated that in many courses such as Sociology 1010/English 1010-1020 discussions of statistics occur. Lemoine added Psychology 1010 might even be appropriate for measuring this competency. Handel added that EPSY 2020 could also be used. Abney said she would check with Barnett in Psychology to see if PSYC 1010 contains the appropriate statistical material as a possible alternative for measuring this in 2018-19.

Members then engaged in a lively discussion about the use of nationally normed assessments such as CLA/CAAP and other assessments. Ultimately, all agreed that the assessments need to be meaningful and seamless. Morris provided an example that in the CJ Capstone course, the Area Concentration Achievement Test is integrated into the course as 35% of the course grade. More discussion ensued about the need for more education related to assessment for faculty and administrators—Abney and Biscoe said they would share some resources and added that perhaps bringing in a consultant or the group attending an assessment conference might be useful. The group expressed the commitment and desire to look long-term at ways to better assess general education.

Hall asked about the SACS-COC response draft, and Abney and Biscoe indicated that they would visit with Gentry about drafting the general education response. Abney indicated that if she were asked to draft the general education response, she would do so and would share the draft with the committee for comment and input.

Hall invited Abney to report to the University Assessment Committee; Abney agreed that she would do so.

The members agreed to a follow up meeting on June 20 at 2:00 in the Henderson Conference Room.

The meeting concluded at 10:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Abney