

**General Education Curriculum Committee**  
**Meeting of February 21, 2014, 2:30**

**Minutes**

*Attending (Voting):* Bradley, Cobourn, Desoky, Fernandez, Futrell, Masolo, Reynolds, Singleton, Tillquist

*(Non-Voting):* Billingsley, Carden, Dietrich, Gilchrist, Partin, Reed

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of January 24, 2014, were approved.

**CD Petition Update**

Two recent CD petitions were approved and one denied.

**Spring 2014 Assessment Dates**

The next round of assessments for Written Communication is scheduled for May 17, with the training for readers taking place on May 16.

**Assessment Schedule and Staff Transition**

Billingsley reported that a full assessment cycle must be completed by Spring 2016 to comply with the SACS review and reporting deadlines. Therefore, the departmental assessment schedule will need to be accelerated. Joy Karega leaves for Oberlin College in August 2014, but her replacement (to be named) will continue the assessment process, hopefully following training during the transition.

**General Education Reform**

Billingsley reported that, as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century project, the Provost has proposed a review of the General Education Program. Since the enactment of 2010 HB 160 (in its earliest draft as a bill that would have limited all baccalaureate programs to 120 credit hours), the CPE has encouraged a 120-hour cap on baccalaureate programs (our university-wide requirement of a 1-hour academic orientation course would still have been allowed for a 121-hour baccalaureate); meanwhile, some external accreditors have sought increases in the number of major or discipline-specific hours required for baccalaureate degrees. SACS requires a minimum of 30 hours in general education, with at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts; social/behavioral sciences; and natural science/mathematics. In addition, SACS and the statewide general-education assessment program require ongoing assessment at the overall and topical/categorical levels of performance; the current general-assessment program will need to run through another complete cycle to comprise the evaluation and feedback loop that assessment requires. These various expectations and requirements, together with the overall undergraduate program of the university, will be conditions of the review, as will purely internal considerations of effective use of existing resources, budgetary requirements and budgeting model, the last item also an element of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century project. The process for such reform takes time, but the conversation is under way with a Fall 2017 effective date in mind.

Dietrich commented that regional accreditation is crucial and non-compliance severe.

### **Gen Ed Completion for AA/AS Non-KY Transfers**

Billingsley reported that by Kentucky statute, UofL accepts AA/AS degrees as part of statewide transferability. Also under discussion is the premise of accepting AA/AS degrees from non-Kentucky, accredited community colleges/institutions to certify completion of UofL's general education requirements. Within the context of the last ten years (2000-2014), 850 community college students transferred in from outside Kentucky, but only 137 completed degrees at UofL. The 16% graduation rate affects degree production but not how UofL is evaluated.

Concern was expressed about students coming in without general education before attempting completion of their major and about how many additional students would want to come in if the bar is lowered. Several questions arose which Billingsley and Partin will explore. For example, although Partin can gather statistics regarding the goal of the students in terms of an intended major, he pointed out that transfer students are not necessarily required to meet with an advisor, depending on the school. Also, he commented that we don't get many out-of-state transfers, although the numbers are increasing among the transient, such as military dependents or those working for a firm that moves them around.

Related to this proposal was discussion about the issue of general education courses being under stress. Given this fact, Billingsley commented that some of the pressure may be relieved if programmatic parity can be established coming in.

### **Math Disability Proposal**

The math proposal for students with disabilities goes to the A&S Faculty Assembly for review on February 28.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the GECC is scheduled for March 28, 2014.

Prepared by Kathy Carden