



GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

**MINUTES
October 21, 2003**

Present: Robin Brewer, Sandra Flake, Sherrie Frye, Helen Gerretson, Emily Golson, Phil Klein, Marie Livingston, Barb Lowenbach, Jani Malkiewicz, Lesley Manring, Molly Mathias, Ken Moon, Kim Pacheco, Tom Trelogan, and James Villalon

Guests: Allen Huang, Interim Provost and Vinnie Scalia, Interim Associate Vice President

GEC Chair Phil Klein opened the meeting and declared a quorum present.

Announcements:

Phil welcomed Kim Pacheco and announced that she has been elected chair of Area 6.

Phil announced that James Keaten has been elected chair of Area 7.

Approval of Minutes:

Tom Trelogan/Ken Moon moved to approve the minutes with a correction in the spelling of Robin Brewer's name. Motion carried.

It was announced that the GEC minutes will be posted on the GE Web site. Sandy Pope, GEC recording secretary, will send the approved minutes to Tom Trelogan and he will post them. Also, an announcement will be placed in the on-line UNC Today to inform the campus.

Dean's Report:

Sandra Flake reported that Interim Provost Huang informed her that she will no longer represent UNC on the GE-25 Council.

Statewide Core Course Transfer:

A draft of the letter to Provost Huang regarding the withdrawal of WS 101 and MCS 101 from the statewide core course transfer proposals was handed out. The Council approved the draft and Phil will send the letter to Allen Huang, with copies to Dick Dietz, Chair of Faculty Senate, Peg Heimbrook, Chair of Academic Policies Committee, and to Sandra. Since the minutes will be posted on the Web site, there will be an indication that a letter is forthcoming and any questions can be forwarded to Phil Klein. There was a question as to whether anyone can attend GEC meetings. Sandra said she believes that they are open meetings that anyone may attend.

Charting the Future:

Phil handed out a draft of the sections of the report on the past and present and asked Council members to read the draft and send him e-mails containing proposed changes or other suggestions.

Tom handed out a proposal, "Principles of General Education," which served as a useful basis for discussion. Among the questions the Council discussed informally: Is 40 hours a reasonable number of hours for General Education, or does it interfere with certain professional preparation programs? Several of the colleges specify General Education courses so that can complete professional preparation programs in 120 hours. The General Education program includes many courses that satisfy prerequisites for courses required in various majors. Do we need a smaller General Education program, or is what we have now preparing students for their majors? James Villalon, student representative, stated that he feels his General Education did not prepare him for his major. What is the value of taking two courses in each content area?

Marie Livingston reminded the Council that the strengths of the Life of the Mind Program include its being interdisciplinary and a center of excellence. While it remains quite small it could be expanded. There are currently 12 courses in the program with an average of six being offered each semester. The courses are team taught and planned. The program has instructors from three of the five colleges at this time, but would like to have faculty from all of the colleges. Is the goal for the future General Education program that it be more interdisciplinary? Should there be one or more General Education capstone courses?

Phil welcomed our guests, Allen Huang and Vinnie Scalia from the Charting the Future Design Team. They came to share a General Education article and to see if there were questions regarding Charting the Future. The article emphasized the importance of a General Education programs' having a clear purpose, overall coherence, and strong connections among its various content areas.

Phil will prepare a draft of the Future section of the Charting the Future report to be e-mailed to Council members prior to the November 4 meeting as a basis for discussion. Since that is the last meeting of the GEC before the Charting the Future document is due, it is vital that all Council members offer critiques.

Robin Brewer/Kim Pacheco moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by

Sandy Pope
Recording Secretary