MINUTES
General Education Committee
January 28, 2015
2:15-3:45pm
Montecito Room

Members present: John Blondell (Theatre Arts), Stephen Contakes (Chemistry), Thomas Knecht (Political Science), Tatiana Nazarenko (Chair and Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Digitization and Instruction Librarian); David Vanderlaan, (Academic Senate Liaison, Philosophy)

Others present: Deborah Dunn (Professor of Communication Studies)

Absent: Michelle Hardley (Registrar)

Others present: Debra Dunn (Communication Studies), Opened with Prayer

I. The minutes of the January 28th, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

II. Oral Communication Update

In response to the Academic Senate’s request to remove the “Speech Intensive” option within the WSI GE category, assess the Oral Communication ILO at the departmental level, and articulate the Oral Communication ILO and tentative certification criteria for this requirement, the Committee invited Deborah Dunn, a representative of the Communication Studies department, to participate in the Oral Communication discussion.

The Communication Studies department understood that the proposal was to remove Public Speaking as a Speech Intensive course from the GE, which does not make sense to the faculty. Consequently, on November 20, 2014, they submitted their “Writing/Speech Intensive Courses” response to the GE Committee. The issue was clarified at the meeting. Deborah wanted to know whether the college has resources to support the broadening of the Oral Communication requirement given that we will not be adding more units to the GE or hiring new faculty. She provided copies of the Interdisciplinary Task Force Report on Assessing Oral Communication, August 2013, and background readings for a WASC Retreat on Core Competencies: Written and Oral Communication from Fall 2014.

Several other questions were discussed, including the possibility of splitting Writing and Speech Intensive requirement into two requirements and having all students fulfill both; professional development opportunities (workshops) for faculty teaching oral communication courses; and what should count as sufficient instruction in Oral Communication courses.

Deborah agreed to go back to her department with a request to write a draft document outlining oral communication competencies. They will try to get it back to the committee in two weeks – but no promises.
III. The Program Review Committee Response to the 2014 GE Annual Report

The Committee reviewed the PRC’s response to the 2014 GE annual report and decided against inviting the PRC’s assessors, Bill Wright and Dana Alexander, to discuss the memo.

IV. Performing and Interpreting the Arts Assessment Update

John reported that there was no updates regarding the PIA assessment but raised a question about other courses – such as Art History – that might meet this requirement but are currently not part of the PIA area. It might be possible to release some of the tightness in this area and make it either Performing OR Interpreting the Arts. The GE Committee would be supportive of this split if the Music, Art, and Theatre Arts departments agree.

VI. Submission of HIS 182: History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Heather Keaney to satisfy the Thinking Historically and Speech-Intensive GE Course.

The GE Committee discussed the proposal. The course was approved with no corrections. This change will become effective starting Fall 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Mayfield Mullen
Digitization & Instruction Librarian