

## General Education Council Meeting

September 13, 2016

### Minutes

#### I. Updates:

- College of Arts and Sciences:
  - The BA with a Major in Criminal Justice has been changed to a BS with a Major in Criminal Justice (Fall 2016)
  - In Fall 2016, the Department of Political Science begins offering a new track in International Studies
  - Effective July 1, 2016, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science separated into two departments. The Computer Science Department Office is located in Nevins Hall Room 2070.
- College of the Arts:
  - Beginning in Fall 2016, the Department of Communication Arts is offering a new minor in Health Communication
  - Beginning in summer 2017, the college will begin accepting students into the new MAT in Music Education.
  - In Fall 2017, the college will offer a new BFA with a major in Emergent Media and Communication
- College of Business Administration:
  - Beginning in fall 2016, the college is offering the following new minors: Business Analytics, Business Law, and Operations Management.
- College of Education and Human Services:
  - Beginning in fall 2016, the Department of Psychology and Counseling has been approved to offer a Minor in Addiction Studies
- VSU's Core Curriculum:
  - Beginning in fall 2016, ECON 2105 has been approved by the USG General Education for addition to Area E of VSU's core curriculum.
  - In March 2016, the Board of Regents removed the requirement that USG institutions were required to identify or track overlay requirements related to US Perspectives, Global Perspectives, and Critical Thinking.
  - **The Florida 2+2 program:** Under this program, VSU will treat the AA degree from approved Florida schools as if the degree had been awarded within the USG system. As a result, Core Areas A-E will be complete regardless of what courses were taken by the student (Although Core Areas A-E will show satisfied in Degree Works, no pre-requisite requirements for major courses or upper division courses are waived in the process). Area F will continue to be evaluated on a course-by-course equivalent basis. Since there are significant differences between the core requirements in the Florida system and VSU's, there will be

courses placed in core areas that would not be there for USG students. Students will still need to complete the legislative requirements for Georgia history and constitution. Please direct any questions to Ms. Lisa Long or Ms. Christy Croft in Admissions, or to Joe Weaver, Off-Campus Programs.

- **Project CORE:** One of the funded Innovation grants was for Project CORE. Around 60 new students will enroll this fall in an introductory seminar to examine the multidisciplinary nature of VSU's curriculum. They will follow up this one hour seminar with a capstone seminar during the beginning of their second year in which they apply their learning in their core courses to a hands-on project. If the pilot goes well, Academic Affairs will explore whether this model should be scaled up and revise Area B to accommodate it.
  - **Gateways to Completion (G2C)** is designed to create and implement an evidence-based plan for improving teaching, learning, and success in historically high-failure rate courses. Success in foundation level courses, such as accounting, math, chemistry, biology and writing and rhetoric is a direct predictor of retention. Gateways to Completion (G2C) provides institutions with assistance on the processes, guidance, and tools to support redesign of lower division and/or developmental level courses. Valdosta State University chose in its first phase of G2C to work with faculty in the following courses for the implementation of these innovations: HIST 2112, MATH 1111, ENGL 2113, CHEM 1211, and BIOL 1107.
  - **SmartPath Core:** eLearning is working in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences to develop and launch selected core classes in a totally online format. Phase 1 classes (ENGL 1101, POLS 1101, SPAN 1001 and 1002, MATH 1111) will begin this fall and development for Phase 2 courses is underway for a spring launch.
  - **Online BA in Psychology:** eLearning has partnered with the College of Education and Human Services and the Department of Psychology to develop and launch an online degree. Phase I courses are launching in Fall 2016 with 5 online PSYC courses. Phase II development launches this fall.
- Both SmartPath Core and the online PSYC degree students have registered for a total of 1,056 credit hours as of July 25, 2016.**
- **Program Review:** Fifteen (15) programs are scheduled for academic program review during 2015-16 (see list at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/university-assessment-committee/documents/cprcycle.pdf>). An orientation session will be held in early September for these programs.

## II. **Core Meeting for Faculty, Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3PM, Psychology Auditorium**

- 35 attendees, including administrators, department heads, faculty, and staff
- 5 Innovative Grant winners who presented:

1. Kathleen Lowney: Establishment of a Core Curriculum Faculty Status
  2. Gardner Rogers: Project CORE (Creating Opportunities for Research and Engagement)
  3. Neena Banerjee: Exploring Citizenship through Politics: Camp for Local Students
  4. Shani Wilfred: Criminal Justice Outreach and Recruitment to CJ agencies
  5. Christine James: Videos for Student Success and Retention
- Discussion Questions
  - Questions from the floor: AREA B: Perspectives or Institutional Options: The 2-hr. credit does not reflect the amount of work a professor puts into the course and additionally, it creates a problem in faculty load assignments.
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- III. **Web page proof:** This page is not published, and we send back to Keith for modifications.
- <http://wwwdev.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/core-curriculum.php>
- IV. Discussion on what the main committee task for this year will be. We will work with Office of Institution Effectiveness with Dr. Michael Black on assessment reports for accreditation.