Gen Ed DRC Meeting Minutes, 3/19/2012

Present: Monica Baloga, Matt Ruane, Veronica Giguere, Cecilia Knoll, Maria Lavooy, Catherine Cook

MB: Want to thank the committee regarding work so far. Wanted to say in person because after speaking w/MR, MB has been thinking about hiring a consultant. USF St Petersburg was on probation and hired a consultant to help with compliance with Gen ED competencies. MB contacted the consultant to explore whether they could help us with compliance re SACS. MB conveyed info to consultant regarding what this committee had already accomplished. Asked consultant if interested in developing the outcome statements for Gen ED. Consultant: Dr. Ernie Gonzales.

MR: Our goal today is to firm up the language on the general core competencies. We won't be able to have the whole Gen ED/assessment program roll out by May 1st. So that's not a valid deadline any longer. Other institutions have developed programs that identify some 8 courses that provide and assess the Gen ED requirements. Must have buy in from those teaching the courses. April is when the consultant will start work and hold some workshops.

Old Business:

VG: #6 is the weird one. It initially stated, "Understand the structures and possibilities of the human community through study of the social sciences" We updated to read, "Describe the effects of cultural, economic, political, and social forces upon both individuals and the global community through studies of the social sciences (courses?)."

MR: USF's: "Students will demonstrate an understanding of the behavioral social sciences, including historical context and interrelationships with other disciplines." We might just take out the historical portion.

CC: What about the one from GA Tech?

MR: There are too many specifics in there. It's better if the statement is somewhat vague so that it may be covered by several courses.

ML: Could other courses cover the interrelationships with other disciplines portion?

MR: Presumably. But that is the part when we actually address learning outcomes.

VG: It's important that the consultant understands that we don't have a gen ed department or office. So each of these is going to have to be accomplished by the individual departments.

So #6 will now read, "Students will demonstrate an understanding of the social and behavioral sciences, including interrelationships with other disciplines." This is
essentially the USF version, but without the 'historical' portion which is redundant since history is simply another discipline.

MR: For the next meeting, we should be thinking about what the learning outcomes should be for the courses that we have already identified as courses that would be used for these assessments.