

Appendix C – Summary of Individual Participant Written Feedback

GENERAL EDUCATION CONVERSATION DATA SUMMARY

<p>Culture of FGCU’s General Education Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FGCU’s General Education program should have its own “brand,” and stand for something • Conveying values is an important component of a General Education curriculum • Are imparted through instructors’ expectations/standards, not through the content of the curriculum • Need to model integrity and respect – leaders, not mission or vision, set the tone •
<p>Competencies/Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of General Education competencies (written and oral communication, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking) • All General Education courses should stress General Education competencies • Focus on skills sets, not courses • Emphasize good writing – provide practical subjects that students must research • Teach computer skills • Teach public speaking skills • Encourage independent thinking, challenging preconceptions • Need basic research methods/information literacy course for sophomores • Provide mandatory library instruction • Teach leadership skills • Encourage aesthetic experience (music, art) • Teach healthy lifestyle skills • Require ethics with a high level of critical thinking (ethics, gender studies)
<p>Pedagogy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open dialog among faculty, including General Education faculty, for cross-disciplinary communication to see connections across General Education disciplines • Demonstrate connectedness across General Education courses and provide relevant examples from real life Faculty should help students become responsible for making connections among courses • Teach competencies across the curriculum • Problem of faculty teaching out of their disciplines • Provide a mix of learning styles (distance learning and face-to-face) • Problems with distance learning courses – HUM 2510not valuable as taught • Encourage group work in problem solving
<p>Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide exposure to different (including foreign) cultures • Require foreign language • Promote global perspective, awareness of world affairs • Provide a variety of content/experiences • Provide skills for living with others – tolerance • Interdisciplinary courses enhance interaction among students from different backgrounds and majors
<p>Civic Engagement/Service Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for citizenship • Learn how to live in a democratic society • Provides knowledge of how government works • Service learning can support nearly all learning experiences • Lack of clarity regarding how civic engagement fits in to FGCU experience • Need to reduce service learning requirements –include in one three-credit course

- Service learning poses transportation problems for students

Preparation for Life/Careers

- Prepare for life of engagement, activity, and choices
- Preparation for daily living – anthropological knowledge
- Prepare students to be productive and responsible
- Provide career exploration course with service learning as internship course
- Include aspects of business in curriculum along with ethics to prepare students for life
- Get feedback from employers regarding what FGCU students should know/embody after graduation

Nature of General Education Program

- General Education is the foundation of FGCU's academic quality
- General Education should be an integrated/coherent program
- Keep General Education "general"
- General Education is the scaffolding on which discipline knowledge and skills are built
- Provide flexibility in curricular offerings
- Expand the number of humanities courses
- General Education embodies more than curriculum
- Seek co-curriculum linkage with Student Affairs
- General Education should be more vigorous
- Need to keep enrollment in General Education courses at appropriate level to educate successfully
- General Education should be completed in the first two years
- Seek to understand thinking of the current generation and pros and cons of current times
- Value of General Education program not appreciated till later in life

Links between General Education and Major

- General Education gives exposure to many subject areas
- Address the conflict between students' interest in early specialization and faculty/administrators' commitment to mastering competencies
- Good advising will help students complete their degree faster

Assessment

- Need to assess whether General Education program meets its goals
- Courses should be evaluated to ensure that they are covering the competencies
- Avoid use of standardized tests