
RESOLUTION**IN SUPPORT OF FGCU'S QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN AND GENERAL EDUCATION REVISIONS**

Draft, March 28, 2014

Whereas, Florida Gulf Coast University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC);

Whereas, Core Requirement 2.12 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Principles of Accreditation requires all member institutions to “develop an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) by engaging the wider academic community. The QEP is based upon a comprehensive and thorough analysis of the effectiveness of the learning environment for supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution”¹;

Whereas, Core Requirement 2.12 also states that the institution’s QEP development should “include an institutional process for identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution”²;

Whereas, SACS’ requirements for institutional effectiveness require that the developed QEP “(1) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP; (2) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP; and (3) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement”³;

Whereas, Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) has engaged in a continuously open and inclusive process via faculty forums to solicit feedback from all FGCU faculty regarding the topic selection and implementation of FGCU’s QEP;

Whereas, the QEP steering committee demonstrated a willingness to incorporate faculty feedback into the QEP via a transparent and comprehensive process;

Whereas, SACS has already provided FGCU with positive feedback on the QEP draft submitted;

Whereas, during the 2013 legislative session, the Florida legislature passed revisions (SB 1720) to the original legislation (HB 7135⁴, passed in 2012) on General Education in the state of Florida;

Whereas, this legislation: “restored General Education to 36 hours (from 30); extended the timeline for implementation to fall 2015 (from fall 2014); created a provision for colleges and universities to not

¹ <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2012PrinciplesOfAcrcditation.pdf> (pg. 17)

² <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2012PrinciplesOfAcrcditation.pdf> (pg. 21)

³ <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/2012PrinciplesOfAcrcditation.pdf> (pg. 27)

⁴ <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/7135/BillText/e1/PDF>

have to offer the state approved core courses (though all 40 institutions will need to accept transfer of those courses); allows for Mathematics and Natural Science subject areas to develop additional core courses that are of a 'higher level' than the approved courses; and permits for additional options in Humanities and Social Science courses"⁵;

Whereas, the FGCU General Education Council and Director of General Education provide for a continuously open and inclusive process via faculty forums and the General Education CANVAS Group to solicit feedback from all FGCU faculty regarding the statewide General Education Program changes, as well as the models that FGCU would pursue further;

Whereas, the General Education Council demonstrated a willingness to incorporate faculty feedback into the proposed General Education models via a transparent and comprehensive process;

Whereas, FGCU provided the Florida Board of Governors with the most comprehensive feedback regarding the statewide changes and implications for implementation and on student success;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Florida Gulf Coast University Faculty Senate supports the FGCU Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and its associated development process, and the General Education revision process; and applauds the open and inclusive efforts of both the QEP steering committee and the General Education Council.

Be It Further Resolved, the FGCU Faculty Senate encourages and promotes an environment of collegiality among and within the faculty, staff, administration, and student body of Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the October 2012 Reaffirmation of Shared Governance.

⁵ http://www.fgcu.edu/General_Education/legislativechanges.html