General Education Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2018
3:00 p.m. Fireside Room

Present:

☒ Bob Bittner	☒ Roxi Redd	☒ John Yu
☒ Carolyn Borg	☒ Casey Schurig	☐ *[Agriculture – vacant]*
☒ Lenore Frigo	☐ Greg Thorson	☒ *Mindy Marlatt, Counseling*
☐ Lauren Hollingsworth	☒ Jessica Tyson	☐ **Guests:**
☐ Angela Nitsche	☒ Susan Westler	☒ Dhabih Hendershot, CIS
		☒ Tom Martin, CIS

1. **Welcome**
   Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm by Carolyn Borg.

2. **Approval of Minutes from 12-7-17**
   Additions? – No ☒ Yes ☐
   Susan Westler moved and Roxi Redd seconded to approve the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2017 meeting. Approved unanimously.

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment -** None

4. **Computer Literacy Graduation Requirement:**
   A.   Request from Senate to provide a recommendation.
   Carolyn provided some history of the Computer Literacy requirement which is about 9 years old now, and WASC was pretty prescriptive about this requirement in the 2005 report. The definition of Computer Literacy was created back in 2007 and went into the catalog in 2009. Starting this past November Counselors complete an early evaluation for each graduating student which verifies they have met the Computer Literacy requirement. Counselors have concerns that this is not a requirement most community colleges require, and approximately 30 students each year are not receiving a degree because they haven't met it. Carolyn said approximately less than 20% of community colleges have a Computer Literacy requirement. Students earning AAT degrees are exempt; only students earning non-AAT degrees must satisfy computer literacy.

   It was noted that there are very few local jobs available that don't require computer skills. Tom Martin said research shows these skills are necessary. The issue is how do we do this? There are some challenges with the assessment. Roxi said the students in the Nursing program don't need some of the computer programs assessed for their nursing jobs. Tom Martin suggested students should take CIS 1, with English and Math at the beginning of their studies. Roxi said there are already so many required units in the Nursing program, and Tom said they can work with Nursing and perhaps imbed it in a new program. It was suggested that this requirement be moved to the front so that students are not denied graduation. Casey Schurig said that we have a Math placement test and an English placement test, and it would help if we have a Computer Literacy placement test as well. John agreed with Casey's idea of an assessment test.

   Dhabih Hendershot talked about how useful CIS 1 is for students, and it's always offered--even in the summer. They are also pushing this course for Dual Enrollment. Digital literacy is not going away in our society. Lenore asked if Computer Literacy a technical skill, or is it bigger than that.

Roxi asked why students have to pay for the exam. Placement tests are generally free, but students currently have to pay for the Computer Literacy test.

Jessica agreed that Computer Literacy is important and said students need to fulfill this in the first year or pass a test during Orientation. Bob also likes the idea of having a placement test early in students' studies and said it's important to have computer literate students graduating. It would be good if we could prevent students from being denied graduation due to this requirement. The importance of having computer literate students and graduates outweighs other issues, and it should addressed be early in the coursework. Jessica suggested it be called Technology Literacy instead of Computer Literacy and suggested that a student's social footprint is most important.

Lenore asked if the placement test could be funded somehow, and said she would really like to see the requirement be more flexible-- perhaps even a one unit course. Carolyn said the five colleges that replied that do have a Computer Literacy requirement offer a one unit course to satisfy the requirement, which is not as comprehensive as our requirement. Mindy said this needs to be addressed up front or in high school and an assessment test is needed. Making it a graduate requirement is obviously a barrier for some students.

Tom said he would work with someone to study the need and possibly apply for a mini-grant. What is the definition of Computer Literacy? How can we create an assessment test or test out option? If we can create something that works, it could be a model for other colleges.

Lenore asked if it could be less dependent upon Microsoft Office. It needs to be more flexible and open. Carolyn asked how it should be defined generically and not specific to a product. She said Word is taught because it is used by most and one can easily transition to other programs from Word.

Tom Martin suggested a motion to retain the requirement, look at changing the name, come up with a definition, and have an assessment in orientation or another way to test out. Lenore said she'd like to see the funding to be a part of the motion (free option).

Carolyn moved to retain the Computer Literacy requirement and create a cross-disciplinary team to make recommendations regarding the definition, the creation of a literacy placement test, an option to test out, and create a free option for the test. This motion was seconded by Roxi Redd and approved unanimously.

Tom is going to find people on campus to apply for the mini grant, and Susan Westler said she would work with him. Mindy will find a counselor to help.

This recommendation will now go to Senate.

5. **Other**

6. Next Meeting is on the 4th Thursday in March (3-22-18).

    Adjourned at 4:26 pm.

lsa