- General Education Advisory Committee
Notes from Tuesday, May 13, 2014 Catalina Room, CSU Office of the Chancellor

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mark Van Selst (ASCSU/Chair), Kate Fawver (ASCSU/Vice), Steven Filling (ASCSU), Andreas Gebauer (ASCSU), Susan Gubernat (ASCSU), David Hood (ASCSU), Kathleen [Kathy] Kaiser (ASCSU), Patricia Kalayjian (ASCSU), Catherine Nelson (ASCSU), Barry Pasternack (ASCSU), John Stanskas (CCCAS), Elizabeth Adams (CSU AO), Christine (Chris) Miller, Terri Eden (CSU AO [Video]), Joseph Bielanski (CCC AO), Jeff Spano (CCC CO), Ken O'Donnell (CSU CO), Joseph Bielanski (CCC Articulation [Video]), Jackie Aboud (CSSA), Christine (Chris) Mallon (CSU CO).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jessica Taketa (CSSA [after class])

**GUESTS:** Debra David (CSU CO), Michelle Pilati (CCC AS), Laura Castro (SBCC/ by phone), Alice Scharper (SBCC / by phone), Lynn Mahoney et al. (CSU: Long Beach)

GEAC report to ASCSU Plenary:

1. GEAC Approved pilots for online oral communication at SBCC, Canada, and West LA Community Colleges.
2. We received an update on the integrated GE package at SBCC.
3. We received a report from Kate Fawver on the CIAC meeting of CSU GE reviewers with specific input on updating / modifying the CSU GE guiding notes.
4. We established a process for establishing recommendations regarding the Math and English "Cambridge" exams (similar to AP).
5. We established a process for establishing recommendations regarding AP Capstone and Research seminars.
6. We received an update on the wrap-up of the COMPASS project
7. Broached establishing reduced units to be awarded for some of the credit by exam recommendations.
8. We began to address the continuing to surface concerns about campus GE packages meeting CSU GE criteria.
9. We received a report on the cancellation of the STEM-based ITL summer institute
10. We Evaluated the request to make a recommendation on the CSU GE Waiver request of area A3 by CSU:LB.
   * GE within vs external to the major program (desirability of diverse perspectives "in the room")
prior A3 waivers exist at many CSU campuses (but these were established in a different context that did not involve dramatic program unit reductions)
• concern over establishing a 'new' precedent
• concern over whether the CSU is or is not committed to a comparable GE package for all of our students.
• the waiver is primarily for transfer students since local students can be accommodated by internal campus processes.
• in one of the first deeply split series of votes in my recollection of approximately a decade of GEAC service, we eventually elected to not take a position for or against a waiver of area A3 as requested by CSU:LB engineering.

Approval of agenda for meeting of 5/13/2014

Additional items included:
13a) Units awarded for external examinations (Teri)
13b) Expectations for meeting GE outcomes within the CSU (Miller)

Review of notes to meeting of 3/18/2014
- No changes.

Request to review exam materials (Cambridge):
- Math and English: Terri follow-up + Ken and Mark with English (Both Literature and Language) and Math council.
- Sample questions?
- Exam Development?
- Scoring and Norming?
What questions do the councils have, what evidence/content would they like to see.

CSULB request for review and comment re Area A3 exception
- Focus on WASC requirements.
- Is there an assessment of level of critical thinking?
- Is there competition for exiting standards (accreditation)
- Building written communication into U/D
- Does the critical thinking experience within the discipline cover the breadth of exposure that would occur across a diversity of disciplines?
- AACU rubric / LEAP critical thinking.
- If the waiver is focused on transfer students, won’t we be disadvantaging these students vis-à-vis preparation?
- Keep us posted on how GE critical thinking is as portable from within discipline as from as taught within engineering. Also, what about the loss of diverse disciplinary perspectives.
- Exemption mirrors that for other campuses, bigger recommendation might be for systemic title 5 exemption.
- A3 is now on the table.
- We need to know GE learning outcomes from waivers.
- Possibility to use CSU:LB as pilot to show equivalency of Critical Thinking training within and without the major.
- The educational experience is a degree rather than a Major.
- Strong assessment structures in the CSU:LB proposal.
- We should evaluate when/where GE outcomes are being met.
- Terri, a GE modification for their students would be possible; the waiver request is such that transfer students are not disadvantaged.
- Does a liberal education apply to engineers? Nursing? ... we are also looking at what sort of citizens our degrees represent.
- Suggest to approve and follow up.
- Variability in A3 across campuses is hard on student planning for transfer.
- There are “whole” GE + major + exploration degrees and “full >= 120 unit” fully defined degree programs.
- The reality is that we are being asked to respond to realities outside of our curricular advice.
- Record for critical thinking for engineers – using comparable metrics.
- If GE is special, do we have evidence of this?
- **ACTION:** no recommendation re: CSULA A3 waiver request. Rationale is that although the assessment piece to verify stated GE A3 outcomes appears to be in place for local students, there appears to be a much larger issue around A3 waiver requests more broadly. At a system level we (GEAC) should evaluate the desirability of maintaining our A3 requirement, and if maintained, should truly require all students to demonstrate A3 competence. If A3 is met within each or any discipline via its major, assessment should be required.

**Report on meeting of GE reviewers 4/25/2014**

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<th>Kate Fawver</th>
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<td>- CIAC annual meeting</td>
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<td>- Special session on those CIAC officers who assisted with the CSU GE course review.</td>
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<td>- The request was to see where revisions to CSU GE Guiding notes would be appropriate.</td>
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<td>- Two categories of concerns emerged: (1) timing and procedural questions (2) content areas: the two areas are area C, the description is challenging (what is an “art” class? Include examples in support</td>
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of the definitions), another element is music theory. Area D needs a definition of each sub-area of area D. Area D has 10 subareas... which are not used for GE transfer. ACTION (Ken) EO + CSU GE Guiding Notes will both need to be changed.

**Update on pilot program at Santa Barbara City College**
- Individualized educational plans for each student
- First cohort is running now
- Workshops are integral to student success (study skills, notetaking goal setting, transfer)
- Pilot starting narrow, aware and addressing concerns regarding scalability; working on institutionalization now.
- Next update in Jan 2015 brief report; expectation expanded September 2015.

**College Board re: AP Capstone and Research Seminar.**
- The equivalency to critical thinking ought be considered (likely A3 or Area E given the range of topics potentially within the scope of the topics for the Capstone and Seminar).
- **ACTION: In the fall, we will ask a group of “honors program” directors (typically offering integrated GE packages) will be asked to evaluate the AP offerings.**

**Linked Learning Pathways to the Baccalaureate**
- Advisory committee met.
- The rfp has been developed and improved, it has now been distributed. June 30th deadline for submission.
- Invited to distribute for feedback on the intended evaluation metrics to GEAC.
**Give Students a Compass**
- updates on Compass Phase II.
- Almost all projects are wrapping up the COMPASS-affiliated funding portions – the concluding element of compass is the dissemination component.
- The idea of linked learning and integrated curricular efforts are coming closer to effective system-to-system hand-offs.
- Threshold concepts (what is a central understanding inherent to a discipline?)
  - **ACTION: I note several GEAC members participation in developing COMPASS deliverables.**
  - Final wrap-up meeting for COMPASS (and future directions) will be FEB 12-14, 2015, at Sacramento State

**Proposed pilots for on-line oral communication**
- follow the SBCC model, Canada, West LA, Santa Barbara.

**CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning**
- RFP from ITL re: general topics for faculty development (april 20\textsuperscript{th}) e.g., writing, student success, etc. (May 19\textsuperscript{th} due date). These would be appropriate for GE-related concerns.
- Use of common rubrics may allow longitudinal evaluation of development of the curriculum

13a) Units awarded for external examinations
13b) Expectations for meeting GE outcomes within the CSU

| Debra David | Ken O’Donnell | Wayne Tikkanen | Teri Eden | Chris Miller |