

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
General Education Council
Minutes for February 3, 2025

PRESENT: Marie Bourgeois, Chair (PH), Joanna Burchfield, Vice-Chair (EN), John Abresch (LIB), Karen Atwood (AC), Lauren Braunstein (EU), Sara Callahan (AC), Shane Combs (UGS), Michael Cross (JGHC), Madeline Domino (BU), Jane Govoni (EU), Sara E. Green (AC), Morgan Gresham (AC), Manisha Joshi (BC), Jennefer Karnegie (EU), Daniel Marlin (BU), Jay Michaels (AC), Elizabeth Miller (AC), Jason Nethercut (AC), Gauri Pradhan (AC), Richard Smith (AC), Walter Silva Sotillo (EN)

ABSENT: Emily Mann (LIB), Lindsay Peterson (CBCS), Natasha Zurcher (NR)

GUESTS/EX-OFFICIO: Scott Besley (BU), Kyna Betancourt (UGS), Maureen Chiodini-Rinaldo (EU), Mary Collins (UGS), Mazhab “Mazi” Ferguson (OCE&P), Colin Forbes (UGS), Rebecca Gibbons (ODS), Natasha Gilkey (NR), Lorene Hall-Jennings (UAA), Jessica Harris (ODS), Timothy Henkel (UAA), Lisa Landis (CBCS), Jennifer Lister (CBCS), Diane Mellon (C&PD), Ali Mrani Alaoui (UGS), Kelly Pearson (AC), David Ponton III (AC), Catherine Rogers (CBCS), Michelle Wohlman-Izakson (UEPM)

Meeting Commenced – 3:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Announcements

Marie welcomed the council members to another General Education Council.

2. Approval of December 2, 2024 General Education Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as is (no revisions).

3. Informational Items

1. Update on GEC Subcommittee – Marie Bourgeois

In mid-December, the GEC Subcommittee proposed the adoption of a two-tiered screening process for new courses wishing to adopt the general education attribute. As it is outside of the GEC’s charge to ascertain if a proposed course meets the legal requirements established by the Legislature and Board of Governors (BoG), this approach ensures that the council will not devote time and resources to courses that fail at the legislative level. The process is categorized as follows:

1. Proposals (new and recertification) will be screened by the General Counsel’s office and the Provost to determine if they meet the legislative requirements.
2. Courses that clear the legal hurdle will go on to the GEC for evaluation and adoption with the stipulation that clearing the first tier does not mean a course will automatically be approved by the GEC.

Additionally, the subcommittee noted the guidelines featured in Gen Ed programs at other Florida universities to help determine the new structure for USF's General Education. As most have adopted a two-group approach, they have opted to do the same. The first group of courses comes from the Statewide Core, and the second group of courses comes from USF's Institutional Gen Ed requirements.

Students would be required to take:

1. Five courses from the Statewide Core (Group 1)—one in each subject area
2. Five courses from the USF Gen Ed Core (Group 2)—one in each subject area.
3. The remaining 6 credit hours on electives from Group 2 in any subject area.

Subject Area	Statewide Core (Group 1)	USF Gen Ed Core (Group 2)	Totals
Natural Sciences	3	3	6
Social Sciences	3	3	6
Humanities	3	3	6
Communication	3	3	6
Mathematics	3	3	6
Additional Gen Ed electives	0	6	6
Totals	15	21	36

These two items were brought to an email vote on 12/12/2024 and approved unanimously amongst the council at large. These items were then sent to the Provost for review, where they were accepted. Since then, the Subcommittee has been working to refine USF's student learning outcomes (SLOs) and create forms for the assessment of existing and prospective Gen Ed course proposals.

Previously for courses wishing to carry the Gen Ed attribute, proposers were required to submit material such as the catalog copy (with any necessary revisions), three of the Critical Skill Domains (CSD), identification of their Enhanced Gen Ed attribute, two assignments demonstrating all three of the CSD's, and a choice of SLOs. To expedite this process, the Subcommittee has devised a simplified course proposal. After importing the basic course information (e.g. title, description, requisites), proposers will be required to identify one BOG-mandated domain (Communication, Mathematics, Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences). Two of the three CSDs will then need to be selected (Problem Solving, Critical and Analytical Thinking, or Communication) along with one to three Enhanced Gen Ed attributes (Experiential Learning, Civic Engagement, Information and Data Literacy, Creative Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning, or Cultural Competence). Finally, the proposer will need to include the required Gen Ed assignments and SLOs. Note that the above is not set in stone. Dr Bourgeois has sent this plan to the General Counsel for their review.

Any courses that were approved on the BoG list are considered acceptable for the 25-26 catalog year and do not require resubmission. New proposals will be made effective for 26-27, and any new courses must be restricted to the 1000 and 2000 levels.

The BoG has provided a two-week window for new submissions that have been approved at other SUS institutions to be included in USF's fold. They will consider any applications to this effect with the caveat that this option will require faculty to teach these courses as they were approved at the previous institution. In other words, no changes to prefixes, titles, descriptions, SLOs, and teaching materials will be permitted. Currently, the State has not provided the details of any approved courses, but the information will be disseminated once it has been received. Due to this two-week window (ending 2/14 with completion of USF internal processes by 2/13), the list of approved USF Gen Eds has not been finalized.

Dr Scott Besley, previous General Education Council chair, has created a combined spreadsheet of the courses the BoG has approved for each of the SUS institutions. He can be contacted directly to request this document. Individual lists can be obtained through the BoG's January 30th [Academic and Student Affairs Committee](#) meeting webpage. The list for USF is located within [this document](#).

For the 26-27 year, courses must be submitted to the State by September 1st, 2025. To account for this shift in date, Curriculog will reopen over the summer for Gen Ed proposal creation. Any courses currently with an Enhanced Gen Ed attribute but are not on the approved list will be taught out to accommodate students whose programs are already hinged on these courses. Students also have the option to switch their catalog to a more recent edition if they choose.

A town hall has been slated to disseminate this information to faculty and staff who may be affected by the Gen Ed changes. The date and location have not yet been finalized.

4. Old Business

Course Change Proposals – (Proposals Needing Reviewer Assignment)

1. PET 4941 – Internship in Exercise Science (**eff. 25-26**)
(requesting change to APK prefix, title, course hours, description, requisites, and objectives) (MARIE BOURGEOIS) **TABLED**
Course Attributes: TGEH, INT

Meeting Concluded – 3:49 p.m.