GENERAL STUDIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 7, 2006

I. Call to Order
Dr. Amanda Diggs, chair

II. Roll Call
Members present: Dr. Amanda Diggs, chair; Dr. Tom Dunn; Ms. Didi Karn; Dr. Lan Lipscomb; Dr. Debbie Moore; Dr. Amy Spurlock
Members absent: Dr. Hal Fulmer; Prof. Ron Portis; Dr. Bryant Shaw
Members unavailable due to technology problems: Prof. April Parker; Dr. Carolyn Russell

III. Approval of Minutes
Correction: Add Dr. to Amy Spurlock on p. 2 of minutes
Minutes approved by committee.

IV. AGSC/STARS Report
Dr. Amanda Diggs and Dr. Jeff Spurlock met with Keith Sessions from AGSC. A generic syllabus is required for each general studies course. A sample syllabus was written by Dr. Amanda Diggs and presented to the Dean’s Council. Dean’s Council approved the sample syllabus with the correction of changing “course objectives” to ‘learning outcomes’ to better fit the language of SACS. Deans will follow through on having a sample syllabus created for each general studies course.

V. Proposed GS Course, “Sophomore Seminar in Creative Thinking”
Dr. Nathan Alexander, History, presented the course and answered questions regarding its inception and rationale. While junior and senior level courses are also being discussed, approval at the time is only sought for the sophomore level courses. Motion for approval was made, and carried. Course is to be referred to Undergraduate Academic Council.

VI. SACS and GS Program Evaluation
- Decision on Evaluation Instrument(s)/Peer Institution GS Reports
  - University of Georgia- Dr. Amy Spurlock- Troy
  - Appalachian State- Dr. Amy Spurlock- Troy
  - Auburn- Prof. Ron Portis- Montgomery
  - Alabama- Dr. Carolyn Russell- Phenix City
  - Southern Mississippi- Dr. Amanda Diggs- Troy
  - Georgia Southern Dr. Hal Fulmer- Troy
Dr. Amy Spurlock presented information from the University of Georgia, Appalachian State University, and Portland State University concerning GS Program Goals and evaluation. Dr. Amanda Diggs presented information from the University of Southern Mississippi on GS purpose and goals. Drs. Hal Fulmer and Prof. Ron Portis were absent, and Dr. Carolyn Russell was unavailable to present findings.

Dr. Amy Spurlock will contact these members, and compile findings into the Worksheet grid sent out by Dr. Amanda Diggs. This information will be posted on the Blackboard site. In addition, Dr. Amy Spurlock will provide links to the Portland State University evaluation tools that should be reviewed by group members prior to the next meeting.

- Expertise in Program Evaluation
  Dr. Amanda Diggs will invite Dr. Angela Rolling to the next meeting to discuss testing and evaluation of GS programs, especially in regards to National instruments such as the GECE and MAP.
  Dr. Tom Dunn will discuss with Dr. Ed Roach the instrument created by a committee chaired by Dr. Pullen to evaluate the GS Program to see if this is something that could be used by this committee.

VII. Other Business
The Blackboard site has been created. According to Susan Gilmore, “Everyone will need to access the course as an organization, not a course. I say this to say that you may need to enable the organization listing on your homepage in order to view the organization. If anyone has trouble with access, they can always contact me.” Her email is sdgilmore@troy.edu if you still have trouble.

VIII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm. Next meeting scheduled Wednesday, June 21 at 1:30 by teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Spurlock, PhD, RN