FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, February 12, 2010
11:00 a.m.
CN-2230

MINUTES

PRESENT: Barbara Brown, Coletta Carter, Deborah Gonzales, Patti Gregg, Rufus Larkin, Frank Nash, Evelyn Ting, Margaret Venable, Christopher Rednour and Angela Bonet

EXCUSED: Richard Beaubien, Lisa Fowler, Nathaniel Holmes and Barbara Obrentz

I. CALL TO ORDER
Frank Nash, Dean of Student Services/Interim Director for GPC/Alpharetta, served as facilitator in Lisa Fowler’s absence and called the meeting to order.

II. COURSE UPDATE – Barbara Brown
Dr. Brown explained the process of creating the First-Year Seminar course, the proposal for the course and the common course outline. She informed the group that February 23rd is the target date to get the proposal to the full Senate. It has to go to the Decatur Senate first and was submitted yesterday. She and Alan Jackson will be attending the Senate meeting on February 23rd for the first reading. The second reading will take place at next month’s meeting.

She informed the group that Alan Jackson has agreed to take this project over once it is through the Senate. She will also transition her position with this committee to Dr. Jackson since she will be devoting a large amount of time to the College’s SACS accreditation.

The Committee was in agreement to take the First-Year Seminar Course Proposal to the Senate.

III. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Frank Nash
Frank conveyed Lisa’s thanks to all sub-committee members who have worked so hard and asked that they please submit their membership lists to Lisa or Brenda, if they have not already done so.
IV. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Institutional Research – Formal Evaluation/Assessment Tools – Patti Gregg
Pattie stated that her sub-committee has reviewed the pros and cons of three different surveys on student engagement and distributed copies of the surveys. She will have a report at the next meeting. She asked that everyone be looking at the surveys for consensus and for recommendation.

Civic Engagement and Service Learning – Angie Bonet
Angie said her sub-committee met yesterday and they need some clarification. Frank suggested she speak with Barbara Brown. She stated that they had discussed developing a Peer Mentoring Program as well as the FYE having a Service Learning component that could begin in Orientation and continue through the First-Year Seminar course. Angie said Orientation is the best place to engage and she will speak with Dr. Holmes.

Health and Well-Being – Rufus Larkin
Dr. Larkin shared that his sub-committee was established with a broad representation including a student leader. He distributed copies of the summary notes from their first meeting. He stated this sub-committee will be concerned about the students’ emotional and social health. They would like to hold “Meet and Greets” for parents. They plan to establish a viable web link so students can access information. The agenda for their next meeting will include looking at their goal of making students aware of what is available here and getting them actively involved in their own psychological and social health.

Learning Support Services – Coletta Carter and Chris Rednour
Coletta stated that the sub-committee met Wednesday to discuss the direction they need to take to shape their goals. They will meet on a monthly basis and their work will include:

- Reviewing best practices at schools comparable to GPC (non-residential) that currently offer FYE programs
- Ensuring that work of other sub-committees takes into account issues related to learning support students
- Advocating for learning support students throughout the FYE program
- Establishing a common communication link between learning support students and their instructors, faculty advisors, and department chairs
- Identifying a universal design approach that supports all FYE learning support students – those with and without learning disabilities
- Identifying a process for learning support students to assess their particular learning styles and to develop advocacy strategies to communicate their learning needs
- COMPASS entrance and exit testing
**Academic Learning Communities/First-Year Seminar – Barbara Brown**

Dr. Brown stated that she was under the impression that Ted Wadley would be chairing this sub-committee

**First-Year Intervention – Frank Nash**

Frank stated that the sub-committee had submitted their work to Lisa and Dr. Holmes. He shared that the First-Year Intervention sub-committee will focus on first-year students who are encountering academic, personal, and/or social difficulties/challenges, and guiding students to/through existing GPC interventions to the support services needed to get back on track, and to successfully continue at the College.

Barbara Brown stated that she is not sure how much money this First-Year Experience Program will cost the College, but she will try to get an estimate over the weekend. She was concerned whether there is any budget line for the program since we will need to hire more instructors. She expressed that her preference would be to have current faculty teach and maybe staff with master’s degrees. She stated that she thought this fall pilot could go forth without a budget.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.