

Minutes  
General Education Curriculum Study Committee  
Meeting

<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, February 10, 2005
<b>TIME:</b>	3:00 PM
<b>PLACE:</b>	Bowen Hall, Office of Student Services
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Tina Marshall-Bradley, Carol Briggman, Munir Hassan, Maurice McClain, Gene Pace, David Whitford, Sri Sitharaman, Mohammed Yousef
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED:</b>	Cedric Adderley, Robert Bradley, Raphael Oyinate, Carolyn Snell
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Herman Keith, Angela Peters, Soma Velumylum, Cheryl Ponder
<b>CONVENED:</b>	Tina Marshall-Bradley called the meeting to order.

**Handout materials**

- Agenda
- Draft of the minutes from the January 27, 2005 meeting
- Data on Rising Junior exams from Claflin University's comparable institutions and institutions in the next hire tier
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) criteria for general education and degrees
- Purpose of the Assembly Program
- Comparison of General Education Program requirements

**Approval of Minutes**

Corrections were made to the minutes. The date of the April 23<sup>rd</sup> was corrected to read April 21, 2005. David Whitford moved to adopt the minutes, Gene Pace seconded. The minutes were adopted with corrections.

**Review of Resources**

Sri Sitharaman distributed copies of a document that included the results of the ETS test items for institutions in the same tier as Claflin University as well as institutions in the next higher tier. Committee members were asked to review the information. The committee also reviewed the purpose and objectives of the current Assembly Program. The committee also reviewed SACS requirements for general education requirements.

**Discussion**

Sri Sitharaman explained that the document providing information on the results of the ETS exam from other institutions represented the results from institutions in the same tier as Claflin University. Additionally, the document provided information tests result from institutions in the tier above Claflin University. It was explained that not all institutions in same tier as Claflin University used the same ETS examination. David Whitford asked if the competencies covered on the test could be shared with members of the committee. Dr. Sitharaman indicated that he would bring documentation of the competencies of the current exam being used along with examples of other exams that are used to measure general education requirements.

Tina Marshall-Bradley asked members of the committee to discuss information from the articles that were distributed at the prior meeting and the information that was distributed in the mail. There was a discussion of interdisciplinary courses. It was explained that there used to be an interdisciplinary course in the humanities team taught by a variety of professors. The courses were discontinued around the time that the current general education program was put into place.

Members of the committee discussed one of the articles that identified three salient questions to consider. The questions were:

- What should our students know?
- What skills should our students have?
- What values should our students share?

To these questions, the committee added, How do we know our students know the information, have the skills and demonstrate the values?

As a part of the discussion committee members determined that the mission and vision of the university needed to be represented. There was discussion of the need to define each of the parts of the Claflin Imperative and the measure each aspect of the imperative. It was suggested that the committee keep the assembly and orientation in mind including courses and experiences as a part of the General Education Program. The following areas would be addressed during future meetings:

- Purpose of the General Education Program based on the Claflin Imperative
- Alignment of General Education program with the universities Long Range Plan
- Themes of the General Education Program
- Goals and objectives of the General Education Program
- Courses and experiences that respond to the questions
- Assessments

It was decided that the entire committee would work on each of these areas as opposed to creating sub-committees. Committee members also decided to look into the idea of creating criteria by which courses and experiences were selected to be offered as a part of the General Education Program. The Duke University and Trinity College model would be examined.

### **Next Steps**

During the next meeting committee members will write the initial draft of the purpose of the General Education Program as well as the development of possible themes that will guide the General Education Program.

There was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Marshall-Bradley  
Dean  
School of Education  
Claflin University