



**CAL POLY**

Academic Senate

## **Academic Senate Retreat**

### **GE Program at Cal Poly**

**Friday, September 8, 2017**

**UU 220, 1:30 to 5:00pm**

**I. Welcome (Stegner):**

Dustin Stegner, Chair of the Academic Senate, welcomed the senators and attendees, and laid out the agenda for the duration of the retreat.

**II. Provost's Report (Enz Finken):**

Kathleen Enz Finken, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported that new general education policies are coming out of the Chancellor's Office and there is a need to ensure that Cal Poly programs are in sync with that. Enz Finken announced that Al Liddicoat has been promoted to Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Personnel, as well as Chris Kitts, Biological Science Department, serving as the interim Dean of Research. With regards to the budget, Enz Finken addressed that the university has tremendous financial needs but that one million base dollars have been committed to hiring tenure track faculty across campus. The block scheduling has gone well for the incoming first year students, with the average course load at 15.23 units.

**III. Provost Q&A (Enz Finken):**

Provost Enz Finken answered questions on the target number of new students for the next academic year and the General Education program review.

**IV. Presentation: The General Education Program at Cal Poly (Helmbrecht, Morris, Fiegel)**

Brenda Helmbrecht, Chair of GE Governance Board, reported that the GEGB approved 95% of course proposals the committee reviewed in the 2016-2017 academic year. Helmbrecht addressed that GE faces perception issues and reviewers recommend connecting the GE courses to programs through incorporating "Learn by Doing" pedagogies. With regards to the relationship between the GEGB and GE Task Force, a Memorandum of Understanding has been created and is available per request from the Academic Senate Office. Andrew Morris, Co-Chair of the GE Task Force, reported that the GE Task Force has engaged in 28 meetings researching experiences in GE as well as ways to improve the program. Morris explained that the goal of the task force is to revise the GE mission statement so that it reflects the goals of the university. Gregg Fiegel, Co-Chair of the GE Task Force, shared that the task force has spent two quarters in deep investigation, outreach, and research on best practices from other campuses in order to present recommendations to the Provost and Academic Senate in the Winter Quarter.

V. **General Education Q&A (Helmbrecht, Morris, and Fiegel)**

GEGB Chair Helmbrecht and GE Task Force Co-Chairs Morris and Fiegel answered questions on Executive Order 1100: CSU General Education Breadth Requirements, the GEGB's timeline, implementation of a semester system, and changing GE mindsets and impressions.

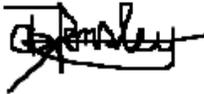
VI. **Discussion: The Future of General Education at Cal Poly (Stegner)**

The senators and attendees participated in a breakout session on Cal Poly's current General Education Program and opportunities on improving it, with access to the GE Self Study. Ideas and conversation that emerged from the breakout session include:

- Need for meaningful pathways in classes
- GE used to be simpler, but now labyrinth-like
- Instructors who are well-versed and find enjoyment in their subject make GE simpler
- More Learn by Doing and interdisciplinary expectations
- Technical disciplines should offer more technical GEs
- Points-based GE system
- Personalized themes/packaged GE courses

The data from the breakout session is available per request from the Academic Senate Office.

Submitted by,



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