

## GENERAL EDUCATION – HOUSE BILL 7135 SUMMARY (AUGUST 2012)

### General Education HB 7135 - What Does it Mean:

- Change of General Education for AA Degree from 36 to 30 credit hours for Florida College System institutions & state universities 2014/2015
- 15 of 30 credit hours will include 3 credits toward each of 5 General Ed Areas
- Each area may include up to 5 courses in each Gen Ed area (5 courses will be same statewide);
  - Indication that the use of "or higher (such as or higher math)" could be used within the 5 courses
- Institutions will determine the other 15 credit hours of Gen Ed
- Foreign Language requirement must be met prior to entrance into a 4-year program
- Five Gen Ed Areas include: Communication, Humanities, Mathematics, Science, Social Science

### Statewide Meeting July 31, 2012:

- Representative Proctor & Heather Sherry (Staff of House of Representatives)
- Review the Bill Section 1007.25 General Education courses; common prerequisites; other degree requirements; Confirm Legislative Intent and to Reach Consensus on Project Work Plan and Timeline.
  - Heather Sherry stated that *36 to 30 hours does not preclude institutions from having "graduation requirements."*
  - There was reference to STEM majors needing *"superior technical skills as well as communication skills;"* for liberal arts majors, employers wanted *"critical thinking skills and communications skills, and for those graduates to be able to learn skills of the job"*, and also reference that *there was no experience that all graduates have in common. The idea was to strengthen liberal arts since that would be the best place to address General Ed. The bill provides "flexibility, but common experiences which is what businesses need."*
  - In the discussion, it was indicated that the **2+2 system will stay intact** due to the completion agenda and the fact that this system is admired across the country. This will be preserved, but the language in the rule & regulation may not be identical.

### AS Degree:

- Heather Sherry indicated that this bill does not apply to AS degree students, although AS students going on toward a Bachelor's degree will need to meet the "core course" options if they have not done so.

### State Steering Committee:

- To guide the implementation of HB 7135 as it relates to Gen Ed
- Composed of 10 Members – 5 from SUS and 5 FCS; Co-Chairs by committee membership; and alternates will serve in member's absence – **Karen Borglum represents 1 of the 5;**
- **Roles & Responsibilities include:** Recommend faculty committee structure and composition for each of the 5 disciplines; Assign member responsibility for one faculty discipline committee; Review and approve course recommendations of the faculty discipline committees in the five disciplines
- Held phone conference August 10 to discuss faculty nominations to state work teams
- Plans to convene face-to-face meeting week of September 17;
- Steering Committee will disseminate Minutes; **ACC** needs reports quickly

### State Faculty Committees:

- Nominating forms will recommend faculty to state work teams; size of the teams may differ by discipline, and membership will be vetted through the Steering Committee, and faculty will receive a plan of action for their work teams.
- 12 faculty members per discipline team: 6 from Florida College System and 6 from State University System.

### Valencia's Plan: Gen Ed Planning & Communications Team:

Develops Principles, troubleshoots issues, incorporates feedback and develops plan. Team to include:

- **Co-Chairs:** Falecia Williams & Karen Borglum
- Academic Deans: IAC Selected: Communication-Jennie Campbell; Humanities-Dan Dutkofski, Mathematics-Russell Takashima; Science-Melissa Pedone; Social Science-Lee Thomas; AS Degree Programs-Wendy Givoglu
- 5 Faculty Representatives: Nominated by campus disciplines and selected by Faculty Council Communication, Mathematics, Social Science, Science, Humanities
- Faculty Council: Faculty Council President or Vice President
- East, Osceola, & West Campus Presidents: Stacey Johnson, Kathleen Plinske, Falecia Williams
- VP Academic Affairs and Planning - Susan Ledlow/Joan Tiller
- VP of Student Affairs or Designee - Cheryl Robinson
- AVP Curriculum & Articulation - Karen Borglum
- AVP Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness - Kurt Ewen
- AVP Career & Workforce Education - Nasser Hedayat

### Discipline Work Teams

**Faculty:** Discipline Work Teams will consist of tenured or tenure track faculty working together collegewide. There will be one or more faculty member on each campus representing each discipline within each Gen Ed category. **Each team will be co-facilitated by the academic dean and faculty member** serving on the Planning and Communications Team. Assistant Vice Presidents will work with all the teams as an advisory group to provide information, research, and support. Campus Deans for Academic Affairs and Executive Deans will work across all discipline as much as possible discussions as “listeners” and will provide support.

**Academic Deans:** (Includes all general education Academic Deans in their respective collegewide discipline area and one A.S. Degree Academic Dean in each Discipline area) Communication, Humanities, Mathematics, Science, Social Science

### Other Note

The **Gordon Rule** will need to be reviewed.