**Fall 2015**

The General Education committee continued to explore the idea of revamping the critical thinking category to reemphasize these courses as introductory, first semester courses that would allow students to begin work on a portion of the AGEC even if they required developmental ENG or MAT courses. This discussion was further influenced by the proposal being floated by various administrators to create “guided pathways” that direct students toward a predetermined path through their education at Yavapai College. The General Education committee is largely not in favor of preselecting courses for students, especially as it feels that “general education” should indeed be general, preparing students not for a particular career or major but for a life of learning and exploration. The committee has spent the last couple years ensuring that the gen ed portion of each degree is not shaped to simply be an adjunct to that degree but is an opportunity to engage in the wider world of ideas and academic skills applicable to many areas of life regardless of a student’s ultimate goal.

However, the committee does clearly recognize that many of our students arrive at Yavapai College with very little understanding of how a college education works or how their education here fits into transfer or occupational plans. Therefore the committee began the process of developing “gateway” or “metamajor” courses that would allow students to explore various options within an area of interest, to learn about the topics, skills and requirements of various disciplines, and to develop an individualized academic plan that allows them to clarify their own goals and map a path to achieve it. These courses would be designated at the one hundred level with no prerequisites (other than the reading prerequisite that all AGEC courses must have) to impede enrollment, and would meet the learning outcomes for the AGEC critical thinking category.

The following courses and programs were reviewed and recommended to the Curriculum committee.

AGS Program modification – with the recommendation that the courses indicated to fulfill the science requirement be designated as “recommended” but not required.

 ENG 211

 ENG 219

The following course was reviewed and not recommended to the Curriculum committee.

FYE 103 – This course was submitted for inclusion on the AGEC critical thinking class list, but it was determined that the course outcomes do not meet the category’s learning outcomes, in that there is not enough emphasis on the higher-level learning skills that critical thinking entails. The fact that FYE does not have a reading prerequisite also bars it from being included on the AGEC list.

The decision to create a “recommended” category of gen ed courses that could be suggested to students within a program, without mandating that particular courses be taken to fulfill a gen ed requirement, has been implemented (see AGS program discussion above,) and is being applied to new curriculum as it is submitted.

With the retirement of Sal Buffo, a new representative for Social and Behavioral Sciences was needed. Laraine Herring has agreed to serve in his place. Myra Whitt also left the college for a new job, leaving a vacancy for an occupational education representative which has not yet been filled.