MINUTES
General Education Committee
November 3, 2014
2:30-4:00pm
VL216

Members present: Stephen Contakes (Professor of Chemistry), Bruce Fisk (Professor of Religious Studies), Michelle Hardley (Secretary and Registrar), Thomas Knecht (Professor of Political Science), Tatiana Nazarenko (Chair and Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Jana Mullen (Digitization and Instruction Librarian)

Absent:

Others present: David Vander Laan (GE Liason and Professor of Philosophy)

I. Opened with Prayer
II. The minutes of the October 20th meeting were approved
III. GE Website
   Jana Mullen needs to send Tatiana a short BIO to be posted to the website.
IV. Update on Understanding Society
   The faculty teaching Understanding Society courses have worked to revise the language for the GE area. The explanatory first paragraph, committee praxis and certification criteria have been revised. As a way of assessing knowledge in this area, the group has also discussed giving their students a pre-post test on the identifiable theories for each discipline. Committee members gave feedback and suggestions for corrections on the revised version.
   
   Tom will take this information back to the faculty for additional reflection and corrections. The group will also need to establish the student learning outcome for this area based on the new certification criteria. Tom will bring back a revised version to a future meeting for additional discussion.

V. Update on Performing and Interpreting the Arts
   An email has been sent to all of the professor who teach in this area inviting them to participate in the discussion. In the email they were asked to review the language in the PIA GE area as well as respond to 5 different questions posed by Bruce to initiate discussion. When feedback is received from the committee
members Bruce will call a meeting with everyone to work on revisions to the document and discuss the common assignment.

VI. Update on Quantitative Reasoning
Stephan presented the proposed revisions to the Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning GE Certification Criteria and SLO to the various affected departments and instructors teaching courses within this area. Some concerns were expressed that longstanding courses in this area would be removed based on the new certification criteria. The committee has agreed to move the document to Academic Senate for consideration.

VII. From Academic Senate: Examining the Implications of Requiring Any 2 WSI Courses Versus One in the Major and One Out of the Major
Academic Senate asked the GE Committee to consider whether the GE program should be modified to allow for students to take any 3 WSI courses for their General Education program as long as their Composition requirements are met. Committee members discussed the overall purpose of the GE program and whether students would have enough exposure to writing in other disciplines if they were not required to take a WSI course outside of their major. They also discussed whether we have built a GE structure that benefits some majors but disadvantages others, making it more difficult for some majors to complete the WSI course outside of the major requirement.

We will continue discussing this issue in a future meeting.

VIII. From Academic Senate: Oral Communication Task
Academic Senate has also asked the GE Committee to discuss two issues:
   1. How we might propose handling the fact that the Writing/Speech Intensive GE category that has only 3 courses certified as Speech Intensive? Should we remove the “Speech” from the GE category entirely? Should we modify the certification criteria so that more courses can be certified as “Speech Intensive”?  
   2. In light of our response to #1, how does this impact how we assess the Oral Communication ILO?

The committee had some initial discussion on these issues and will continue the discussion in a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar