MINUTES
General Education Committee
December 1, 2014
2:30-4:00 pm
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: Mark Sargent (Provost)

I. Opened with Prayer

II. The minutes of the November 17th meeting were approved with minor corrections

III. Checking in on GE Assessment: Understanding Society and Performing and Interpreting the Arts
Mark wanted to check in to see where we were with GE assessment for the Understanding Society and the Performing and Interpreting the Arts categories. The committee updated him on the progress thus far. Mark’s vision of this assessment is a light form of review, not as substantive as an ILO assessment, and it occurs in 3 stages:

1. Syllabi review – This includes measuring syllabi against the certification criteria, making sure we have good syllabi with all of the required elements, finally discussing what we observed/learned by reviewing the syllabi. This should be a free response/reflection exercise not requiring a formal evaluation process.

2. Developing means of assessing learning – This can be either having signature assignment used in all courses, using department specific prompts but the same rubric, or using pre-post tests for each discipline. In the past Mark has used a similar process to the second option where students were given a prompt to respond to. By using a common rubric faculty can begin to see what the students natural inclination is when they begin the course so that faculty can modify their courses to fill in the gaps in the students existing knowledge versus repeating what they already know.
3. What to do with results when we learn them – Mark will come back and discuss this at a later meeting

IV. From Academic Senate: Examining the Implications of Requiring Any 2 WSI Courses Versus One in the Major and One Out of the Major
The committee needs more information from students to see how much of a concern fulfilling the WSI area of the GE is for them. Michelle will write out a number of questions that we can use to poll the students and send them to Tatiana. Tatiana will work with the Provost Fellows in the Provosts office to survey the student body.

V. Oral Communication Requirement
The committee reviewed the assessment documents for Oral Competencies that will be given to all of the department chairs to see what courses they have that could contribute to the Oral Communication assessment. It was decided to wait to give this document to the department chairs until the spring.

The committee was also given the oral communication value rubric and a memo from the Communication Studies department strongly urging that the Public Speaking course be allowed to stay in the Writing/Speech Intensive GE category. It appeared from their response that there was a miscommunication with the department. The committee will respond to the Department upon collecting and analyzing the Oral Communication data across the curriculum.

VI. Social Entrepreneurship Submission Form – Add to Competent Action: Research
This issue will be discussed in a future meeting.

VII. Transnational America – Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Globally and Thinking Historically
This issue will be discussed in a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar