Members present: John Blondell (Professor of Theatre Arts), Stephen Contakes (Professor of Chemistry), 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:

I. Opened with Prayer

II. The minutes of the February 25, 2015 meeting will be considered at our next meeting

III. Updates on Understanding Society and Performing and Interpreting the Arts
Performing and Interpreting the Arts – The instructors will collect data in April then schedule a follow up meeting to discuss it. There is some concern by one professor that the data her class would provide might not be the best indicator of their learning based on the nature of the assignment. John will meet with the faculty member to see if he can explain the process more clearly and work on away forward for that course.
Understanding Society – There is consensus on the prompt, the assessment protocol and the rubric.

IV. Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning Assessment Plan – Steve Contakes
Steve’s main concern is how to gather the data from our students. He wants complete data but he does not want to put too much pressure on the faculty teaching the classes. Should we collect it over the summer, do it at the beginning of the course, at the end of the course?

Michelle will work with Steve to embed the information into the New Students Orientation Website and work with Angela to embed it into the Orientation program. Michelle will also follow up with the students who have not taken the
test during the summer with reminders to take it. Phone advisors will also ask specifically if students have taken the assessment online yet.

V. **Exempting students from two WSI courses in their major from having a WSI course outside their major.**
The committee discussed the data and the implications of it on a possible recommendation to Senate. There were opinions both in favor of keeping things as they are and in favor of removing the restriction of having to take a WSI course outside of their major.

Tatiana will write a memo to Senate as a topic of discussion asking them to consider the idea of removing the Writing for the Liberal Arts GE requirement (but still keeping the Composition requirement) from the General Education program. This means that students who fulfill their Composition requirement with a test score (SAT/AP/IB) will still take one WSI course in their major and one WSI course outside of their major but will not have to take a 3rd WSI course.

VI. **Modifications to the Competent and Compassionate Action GE**
The GE Committee had sent two proposals to Senate – to remove Competent Action from GE and to give responsibility to the departments to create and assess a Senior Capstone course within their 6 year assessment cycle. Senate asked the GE Committee to separate these proposals.

Tatiana will write a proposal to Senate asking that we remove the three GE areas under the Competent Action section of the GE but leaving the Competent Action language in the GE category.

VII. **Vertical Sequencing of English Composition**
In closing the loop on our assessment of student writing the GE Committee had not yet entertained one of Sarah Skripsky’s recommendations to have vertical sequencing of their writing offerings. Specifically, Sarah’s idea was to require all students to complete Composition before they reach their junior year.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of implementing this kind of proposal. Some concerns were that we don’t have this kind of requirement in place for any other GE category, how would we define a student as a “junior”, what are the consequences for not taking it by their junior year and how to we handle transfer students? There was also a concern whether making this requirement was in the GE Committee’s purview.

Tatiana will write a proposal to Senate asking that we discuss requiring students to complete their English Composition requirement for students to achieve Junior status.
VIII. Assessment Schedule for GE SLO’s
Tatiana showed us her suggested schedule for assessing the GE areas in future years and invited feedback on the plan. Faculty wanted to make sure that departments who were heavily represented in a GE area avoid assessing that GE area when they also completing their 6 year report.

Tatiana will examine the schedule again and will give to Bill Wright.

IX. Oral Communication Competencies Discussion
The committee looked at all of the suggested Oral Communication Competencies. They compiled a list with the following criteria:
Core skills for oral communication
1. Effectively communicating a message appropriately for the context
2. Monitoring and presenting yourself
3. Listening attentively and empathetically to others
4. Engaging the audience using appropriate language, delivery methods and non-verbal communication skills

Tatiana will communicate this information with the Communication Studies department and receive their feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley
Registrar