

MINUTES
General Education Committee
October 16, 2018
1:15-2:45pm
VL 216

Members present: Paul Delaney (Chair and Professor of English), Michelle Hardley (Secretary and Registrar), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Information Literacy Librarian), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Steve Rogers (Professor of Psychology), Rachel Winslow (Director, Westmont Downtown)

Additional guests:

I. Prayer – Michelle Hardley

II. The minutes from October 2nd were approved.

III. OT and NT Syllabus Audit

Rachel and Tatiana completed a syllabus analysis for the Old Testament and New Testament courses from the Fall 2018 semester. Both noted issues where syllabi did not follow the syllabus template. Some syllabi appeared to be fundamentally sound, but clearly followed the syllabus format from other academic institutions. Some were missing minor components (like noting that the course met one of the Common Context GE requirements).

Of greatest concern were the learning outcomes present within the syllabus. Almost all of the syllabi could use some work on developing learning outcomes that are measurable, manageable and aligned with institutional learning outcomes, department learning outcomes and GE learning outcomes. For example, some faculty referred to institutional learning outcomes in their syllabi that were removed 10+ years ago. Some syllabi included learning outcomes that did not appear to be aligned or achievable with the assessment methods used within the course. And others did not refer to how the course contributes to the department's learning outcomes or the GE learning outcomes. This leads the committee to wonder at various levels whether the course learning outcomes are appropriate for the classes, and whether students have appropriate support and instruction for achieving those learning outcomes.

The committee will ask the department to revise their syllabi to be in line with the syllabus template. Some of the syllabi will need more modifications than others. It will be important for each professor to link their course to the appropriate institutional learning outcome(s), department learning outcome(s) and GE learning outcomes, and explicitly match their assignments and activities within the course to the fulfillment or student development towards these outcomes.

Based on recent conversations with the department, it appears that they are amenable to discussions on modifying their courses.

Jana will work on crafting the language to the department on these issues and Paul will send out the memo on behalf of the committee.

Tatiana will work with Greg Smith to modify the Class Syllabus Archive to allow for the inclusion of a person's last name in the syllabus link (e.g. ENG-007H-1-Delaney). With this information it will be easier for people to determine the instructor of a particular section when there were multiple sections offered in a term without having to go into each syllabus listed.

IV. The GE and the Proposed Engineering Major

Senate will be continuing its discussion of a possible Engineering major at their next meeting on Monday. Part of this discussion will be on possible exceptions to the GE for students pursuing this major. The GE Committee discussed whether Senate could look to trim down some of the areas identified in the recent Senior Survey (do students need a World History and a Thinking Historically course? Do they need to have a Life Science and a Physical Science course? Do they need 4 PEA courses) versus modifying the GE just for students pursuing this major. Could we create more double counting options within the Common Inquiries that would allow an Engineering major to double dip multiple times but still meet all 8 Common Inquiries?

As the current major proposal calls for modifications to the GE for these students, it would be good to have a GE Committee member at the meeting. Michelle and Tatiana will be out of town next week, Paul is teaching at the time Senate meets and Steve already has a meeting in place off campus. As Rachel is up for tenure this year, Tatiana will ask Jana to attend the meeting to be aware of the latest discussion points.

V. The GE Annual Assessment Report

Committee members gave feedback on the report draft on both format and content. Tatiana will work on those edits and submit the final report.

The committee did discuss that, given the number of responses on the Senior Survey, it would be difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions based on the data with respect to the Exploring the Life Sciences and Exploring the Physical Sciences annual assessment work.

VI. GE Senior Survey Discussion

Committee members gave feedback on the report draft of the senior survey discussion. Some of the findings were at levels too low to draw meaningful

conclusions, and others should be included as they represent continued points of discussion within various parts of the college (departmental level improvements, pending options for new majors, possible GE modifications).

Tatiana will make the initial changes noted and send the document to Rachel so Rachel can edit some of the names of the slide headers for consistency. A revised document will be discussed in a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley