

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**October 30, 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** – Tatiana Nazarenko

**II. The minutes from October 16<sup>th</sup> were approved.**

**III. AN-196 – Anthropology of Education – Add to Common Inquiries: Understanding Society**

The course is currently a topics course and has not been an approved as a standing course.

It needs to be proposed as a new course first through the Academic Senate Review Committee. Once approved, it can then be presented to the GE Committee for GE consideration. Serah should be counseled to consult with her department chair as she structures these proposals. She can also consult with Michelle Hardley (for the new course proposals) and with Tatiana Nazarenko (for the GE proposals) as needed.

Paul will draft a letter to this effect and send it to Serah and Felicia Song (as the Sociology department chair).

**IV. Proposed BS in Engineering Major**

Jana updated the committee on last week's Senate conversation regarding the proposed BS in Engineering major. It was clear that Senate wanted to hear Jana's opinion as a representative of the GE Committee. Concerns have been raised that by reducing the GE requirements for the Engineering majors Westmont would be compromising the focus on the liberal arts for the new major.

The most recent version of the major calls for more double dipping within the GE so that no exceptions to the GE are needed. Engineering majors would complete the same GE program as other majors on campus. There was also interest within Senate to consider more interdisciplinary courses that could meet multiple GE requirements or that could meet a GE requirement and an Engineering major

requirement. The GE Committee shares this interest in more interdisciplinary courses as that would increase an Engineering major's flexibility in scheduling.

As there are no current exceptions needed to complete the proposed major then there is less rationale for proposing changes to the GE for all students.

Rachel conducted an environmental scan on the GE programs at others schools. Her findings show that we have the highest number of GE course requirements out of the schools surveyed. She noted that a number of schools, with and without Engineering majors, had very interesting interdisciplinary courses and first year seminars which could be a model for how we approach creating new courses for students interested in Engineering. Overall, faith based schools have a lot more course requirements for their GE (which makes some sense given the additional courses needed for biblical and doctrine studies) and a lot less choice within their GE.

With the current structure of the GE, and the proposed Engineering major, the GE Committee was in agreement that a focus on effective advisor training and student education on the GE was important. This way students could move efficiently through the GE, maximizing the number of choice options they had during their time at Westmont to achieve their academic goals. This could be accomplished in a number of ways, but advisor training should be a key focus as the college moves forward in adding additional academic programs and off-campus opportunities.

#### **V. The Memo to the RS Department**

After continued thought and discussion Jana wanted to revisit the content of the memo she was drafting for the Religious Studies Department. In examining the syllabi, there were minor to major issues with all of them, and she felt a more appropriate response would be to draft a memo that applied to all with a call to modify their syllabi moving forward.

In the new proposed memo she plans to include the following items:

1. If faculty include the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) in their syllabi, they need to be the current ILOs. Some faculty were still referencing outdated ILOs.
2. All faculty need to include the GE outcomes for biblical literacy in their syllabi and indicate exactly how each of those outcomes will be addressed and properly assessed within the course.
3. A notation to the department that the same syllabus review will be done next year with a focus on Christian Doctrine.

The GE Committee approved of this new focus for the memo. Jana will write the draft version and send it to the committee electronically for final approval. Paul will then send it to the Religious Studies department.

**VI. GE Senior Survey Discussion**

The committee discussed the slide drafts for the GE Senior Survey results to determine what would be included in the final report. There are some concerns that the sample sizes seen on some of the questions are too small to make strong conclusions or recommendations. Though we may not be able to make recommendations, the report to Senate would focus on the work we have been doing, and point out interesting items from the survey that may be worthy of Senate consideration and action.

The committee will continue to review the data, their presentation in the slides and the supporting narrative document at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Hardley