

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**January 28, 2019**  
**3:15-4:45pm**  
**VL 216**

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

**I. Prayer – Jana Mullen**

**II. The minutes from November 27<sup>th</sup> were approved.**

**III. The PRC’s Response to the 2018 Annual Report**

The committee had no comments or corrections to make in light of the PRC’s response to the annual report. The 2018 Annual Report will be filed as the final version.

**IV. The New Language of the Global Awareness ILO**

Heather and Tatiana worked together on the final draft of the Global Awareness ILO language in light of the various tracks of work surrounding global issues and themes.

The committee members discussed the new language of the ILO and how it fits within the new proposed language of the Thinking Globally GE. The Global Awareness ILO is focused on global interconnections and global challenges. The Thinking Globally GE emphasizes a definition of global thinking related to cross cultural divides. It doesn’t address issues of global interconnectedness or global challenges.

There was a concern raised that we have almost no coursework in the curriculum to addresses the global challenges portion of this ILO. Adding this language to the ILO may prompt curricular development in this area, but will become a bigger concern if there are no curricular offerings to assess when Global Awareness comes up in the assessment cycle.

Some changes in wording were suggested to the Global Awareness ILO. The committee approved the language and it will be presented at the next Senate meeting for consideration.

The committee also discussed adding the term “natural” or “scientific” to the Thinking Globally GELO in an effort to open this area up to courses within the

Natural and Behavioral Sciences division. The committee was in favor of having Heather connect with the faculty in the Thinking Globally area to explore this option. She will report her findings back to the committee in a future meeting.

**V. ENV-001 – Introduction to Environmental Studies – Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Globally**

The committee had some concerns on the content of the course and whether the assessment measures matched the course learning outcomes.

- A. Crafting creative solutions to local problems – the committee had concerns that this learning outcome was not practical in a lower division intro course. There were also concerns that the way it was being accomplished was through students administering surveys, and the students may not have the training yet in applied research to do this well. The instructors of the course may need to rethink or reframe this course learning outcome.
- B. The Campus Living Lab and it's connection to the crafting creative solutions learning outcome may also need to be re-envisioned. What could be an experimental learning piece they could do that would not involve also teaching them how to do a survey since they may not yet have the tools to do applied research?
- C. There is also a concern on how these outcomes are being assessed. There doesn't seem to be a solid alignment between the outcomes and the assessment methods.
- D. The paper seems to be important in terms of assessment but it is a small percentage of the overall grade. The tests as well are a small percentage of the overall grade.
- E. Reading notes may be below the developmental level of the students that will enroll in the course. It could be a helpful exercise for first and second year students, but below the abilities of junior and senior students. They are also a larger percentage of the overall grade.

Overall the class seems to be more reflective. The committee would suggest less of a focus on notes and reflections and more of a focus on papers, exams or a presentation of a completed research topic or project.

A memo will be sent to the faculty members teaching the class requesting feedback and consideration on these issues. A revised syllabus will be considered in a future meeting.

**VI. BIO-005 Syllabus**

Tatiana met with a new Biology professor to review his syllabus for the spring. The necessary details were covered wonderfully and the faculty member made some modifications based on Tatiana's feedback. Tatiana will write a letter thanking him for his good work on behalf of the General Education Committee.

**VII. GE Senior Survey Report**

The committee discussed the latest version of the Senior Survey report and asked questions on the content. They had some follow up questions related to student success and failure in GE courses for Patti. Michelle will work with Patti to secure the requested data analysis and will report the findings back in a future meeting. A suggestion was made to remove the last paragraph on the last page from the document before it is presented to Senate.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Hardley