

MINUTES
General Education Committee
February 11, 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 – Rachel Winslow

II. The minutes from January 28th were approved.

III. The New Language of the Thinking Globally Outcome

Heather sent the proposed addition of the word “scientific” to the Thinking Globally group. She received a few replies from faculty, all of those replies were approving of the addition. This language will go to Senate for final approval once additional conversations have taken place on the Global Awareness ILO.

IV. The New Language of the Global Awareness ILO

Tatiana and Michelle summarized Senate’s reaction to the proposed language of the Global Awareness ILO. Senators were positive on the link between the ILO and the Thinking Globally GELO. They had questions on whether the word “evaluate” was the most effective word for an ILO and whether “systemic” was needed in the “systemic roots” phrase to convey the meaning intended in the ILO. They also wondered whether we need to articulate that we are doing things “from the perspective of justice, discernment, and Christ-like love”, as shouldn’t we be doing all things from this perspective. .

The GE Committee members discussed Senate’s reaction. It was determined that Heather might need to meet with Senate at a future meeting to explain the language and why it was chosen as part of the ILO.

V. The Status of the OT and NT Syllabus Revision

Three faculty in the Religious Studies department submitted revisions of their syllabi based on the feedback provided by the GE Committee. One was satisfactory, and left the course in a much better position to achieve the learning outcomes articulated in the syllabus. The remaining two were well done, and the GE Committee was satisfied that their feedback had a positive impact on the student learning experience.

VI. The Christian Doctrine Syllabus Audit

Due to a limited number of professors teaching Christian Doctrine there are only 3 syllabi to review. Jana and Tatiana will evaluate these and will consult with committee members as needed.

VII. An Addition to the 2018 GE Senior Survey Report: Diversity in the GE Curriculum

Tatiana had a recent conversation with Mark, and he would like the GE Senior survey to be presented on the February 26th Senate meeting at 9:15am. Paul will be there to present the report and answer any questions Senator's may have.

Tatiana suggested adding one comment to the report regarding courses focused on diversity. This was a comment that came from a few different seniors in the survey even though it was not directly asked about within the survey. Rachel suggested adding in some of the Seniors quotes as well.

The committee discussed ways to ensure that all students have a Diversity related course before they graduate. It is one of our Institutional Learning Outcomes, yet it has no clear place in the GE curriculum. Michelle pointed out that there is a Diversity label that classes can voluntarily have, but it hasn't been a label that has been maintained since Bob Kuntz left as Registrar. It could be revived again, and professors could be invited to add their course to the Diversity list so that students could search for these relevant courses on WebAdvisor. This may be one way to get at increasing our student's exposure to diversity courses without adding another GE category.

Tatiana has also had conversations with Senators who are interested in discussing the size of our GE and whether we should be considering changes to the GE program.

VIII. Round Table Discussion at Senate

Tatiana also announced that Mark would like to have a Senate discussion on March 19th regarding the round table idea that was developed last year. Tatiana was looking for someone from the committee to present the idea to Senate and field questions. We will continue discussing this item in a future GE Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley