

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**January 17, 2020**  
**2:00-3:30pm**  
**VL 216**

**Members present:** Steve Contakes (Chair and Professor of Chemistry), Paul Delaney (Professor of English), Noah Good (Student Representative), Michelle Hardley (Secretary and Registrar), Michelle Hughes (Professor of Education), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Information Literacy Librarian), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness),

**Absent:**

**I. Prayer** – Steve Contakes

**II. Meeting Minutes** - The minutes from December 3, 2019 were approved.

**III. HIS-181 History of the Modern Middle East - Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Historically**

Heather made the requested changes and resubmitted her syllabus to the committee for discussion. She also removed the mention of the course being a Writing Speech Intensive course from the syllabus.

The committee recommended approval for the course for the Thinking Historically GE effective fall 2020.

**IV. First Year Experience Proposal**

Steve reviewed the history and purpose of the First Year Experience idea, which was originally envisioned as a way for all students to have a cohort experience similar to that found within the Augustinian program.

Steve met with Eileen to discuss how the Center for Student Success may be touching on this area. Eileen indicated there are a number of people working within Student Success, and they would be happy to have another proposal for consideration, especially if the proposal came with buy in from the various stakeholders. Steve felt there was a willingness to have us move forward with our work but those working in this area are not waiting on the GE Committee to bring a proposal.

The committee members discussed a number of different ways forward. In each option the goal would be to cover material related to pedagogical strategies for success within the context of the course. Included in this discussion were:

1. Having sections reserved for only first-year students,
2. Having smaller enrollments in course sections,

3. Providing TA's and required TA sections for courses to help support the class

For any of these strategies to be effective, faculty would have to modify their course to either teach these additional concepts themselves or oversee TA's who would teach these additional concepts. The goal would be to raise up student's ability to engage rigorously with the academic content of the course and how to be an effective student within the context of the course materials.

As a next step, we need a better sense of what could be different about these classes as we continue to shape the overall vision. How could they be taught or what resources might faculty need as they seek to modify their courses in light of this additional goal? Michelle Hughes will connect with the Religious Studies department and Tatiana will connect with the History and Philosophy department to gauge their thoughts on the idea and to gather information on how their courses could be different with this kind of a focus.

We will continue this discussion in our next meeting.

**V. RS Departments Response to the CUPA Assessment**

This item will be discussed in a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Hardley