

MINUTES
General Education Committee
November 18, 2020
2:00-3:30 p.m.
Zoom

Members present: Steve Contakes (Professor of Chemistry and Committee Chair), Michelle Hardley (Registrar), Steve Hodson (Professor of Music), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director of the Westmont Library), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Rachel Winslow (Professor of History)

Absent:

I. Prayer – Steve Contakes

II. Approve the Minutes of November 4th
The meeting minutes were approved.

III. TA-145 – Writing for Performance – Add to Common Inquiries: Reading Imaginative Literature and Common Skills: Writing/Speech Intensive
The course was amended after our last meeting to address the concerns of the GE Committee. It has now been approved for both GE areas effective Spring 2021.

IV. EB-142- China, India and other Asian Economies – Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Globally
The committee discussed the course proposal and how it covers the needed certification criteria.

The course was approved effective spring 2021.

V. Discussion on Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity in Senate
Steve C. received a response from Mark on the Senate discussion. Steve and Tatiana also updated the committee on additional discussions that Mark and the PRC have had with the RS department. In those discussions, the RS department has been asked to:

1. Work on modifications to the certification criteria in the RS Common Context requirements to provide theoretical foundations on issues of justice, reconciliation and diversity
2. Suggest changes to the biblical framing language in the JRD proposal that is being considered by Senate.

The GE Committee has been asked to:

1. Review the proposal to make sure that the title of the new category is consistent. Senate preferred “Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity”. Steve C. will work on aligning the title throughout the documents.
2. Revise the area of the proposal that focuses on race as an ontological category. There were some who viewed that portion of the proposal as committing to viewing issues of race in a specific way and limiting who or what classes might be able to speak into these topics. The committee worked on alternate language for this area.
3. Provide additional biblical and theological framing language to the proposal. The RS department is also being asked to do this (a subcommittee of Caryn Reeder, Charlie Farhadian and Holly Beers is working on this). They were asked to provide their feedback asap to the shared document.

We did add in additional biblical references to the document from 2nd Corinthians and Colossians to ground our framing on reconciliation. We will wait for the additions from the RS faculty and then have an email discussion on the Monday after Thanksgiving with the idea of presenting our final work to Senate in time for their Tuesday meeting.

The plan is to have this proposal come before the faculty in a forum discussion in January and put forward a formal motion in the January or February faculty meeting.

VI. GE Annual Review

We will receive the Reading Imaginative Literature results from Paul Delaney after Thanksgiving. Tatiana will integrate that information into our final report. Her wish is to have us read and review the report at our next meeting so that it can be quickly submitted to the PRC. The faculty member on the PRC who will be reviewing it will be on sabbatical in the spring, so this timeline would allow him to review and respond to our annual review prior to the end of the fall term.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley