

MINUTES
General Education Committee
September 28, 2021
2:00-3:30 p.m.
GLC 103

Members present: Stephen Contakes (Professor of Chemistry), Michelle Hardley (Registrar), Steve Hodson (Professor of Music), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director of the Westmont Library), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Greg Spencer (Professor of Communication Studies)

I. Prayer – Steve Contakes

II. Approve the Minutes of September 28th

The meeting minutes were approved.

III. TA-1XX – Global Theatre – Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Globally

The committee discussed the course proposal and whether it covers the needed certification criteria.

Steve C. will circle back to John Blondell with provisional approval pending the necessity of addressing the “ethical demands of Christians in light of the topic under study”. John will be encouraged to flesh out this part of his syllabus so that a revised syllabus can be considered at next week’s GE meeting.

IV. ME-080 – Junior Design – Add to Compassionate Action: Serving Society

The committee discussed the course proposal and whether it covers the needed certification criteria.

Steve C. will circle back to Dan Jensen asking for a few examples of the kinds of projects students may do as they engage with the community in this course. Dan will be encouraged to flesh out this part of his syllabus so that a revised syllabus can be considered at next week’s GE meeting.

V. Serving Society Forum – Discussion of feedback

The feedback received from the faculty forum presentation on the serving society GE was discussed. It was decided that the faculty input does not provide a mandate for changing this GE.

The discussion clarified that since our serving society requirement is within the General Education area, like all general education areas it will need to be given a clear learning goal that can be assessed and then subjected to GE-level assessment under faculty oversight. Our options for addressing this issue include

- leave the serving society GE area alone and trust it is working well enough as-is. This option might create accreditation issues since it would leave one of our GE areas unassessed.
- add a learning outcome to the serving society GE area without otherwise substantively changing the serving society framing language, certification criteria, or other aspects of the serving society GE as it is currently conceived.
- add a learning outcome to the serving society GE area while also amending the existing serving society GE category to support that outcome
- move the service requirement to a major requirement similar to the senior capstone requirement. Majors would then be expected to implement this requirement (perhaps by requiring students to take the APP-191SS serving society course) and appropriately assess it as part of their departmental assessment work.
- move the service requirement to a graduation requirement similar to the residency and units outside the major requirements, which would not be subject to GE or program-level assessment.

Based on the lack of faculty agreement about what, if anything, to do about this GE area, the committee suspects that it will be important to develop a concrete proposal based on one of the options above. The discussion on this item will continue at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley