

MINUTES
General Education Committee
February 17, 2021
3:15-4:45 p.m.
Zoom

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

Guest: Angela D'Amour (Dean of Student Engagement)

I. Prayer – Jana Mayfield Mullen

II. Approve the Minutes of February 3rd
The meeting minutes were approved.

III. GE Assessment Report Template Draft
Tatiana gave an overview of the rationale behind the creation of the GE Assessment Report template. She has found that the reporting style varies from report to report, and not all of the assessment reports include the features needed for a full accounting of the assessment activities, conclusions drawn and the recommended next steps. This template will guide the assessment writers in all of the features needed to provide a comprehensive report on the assessment work that can be understood by both internal and external audiences.

Committee members saw value in having a template and gave some initial feedback on the content and organization. This template is a document that can be amended in the future if the GE Committee sees that changes are needed as it is being applied to future assessment activities.

IV. Reading Imaginative Literature Assessment Update
Tatiana worked with Tim Loomer to run some statistical analysis on the RIL assessment data. There were no significant differences found between the performance of white students and students of color. There was also no significant difference found between the performance of men and women.

Tatiana worked this new information into the report and sent the final draft to Paul. If he approves the changes then it will be posted online and he will present a summary of the findings to Academic Senate.

V. Reasoning Abstractly Assessment Update

David VanderLaan will be the lead assessment specialist for the Reasoning Abstractly (RA) GE area in fall 2021. He has degrees in both Mathematics and Philosophy, the two departments that teach courses in the RA GE area. He is on sabbatical this year and will begin the assessment work in the fall.

VI. Compassionate Action: Serving Society and Communicating Cross-Culturally

The GE Committee agrees that the entire Compassionate Action GE area needs to be reviewed, and that both the Serving Society and Communicating Cross-Culturally areas also need additional work. Recognizing this, the GE Committee has decided to focus on the Serving Society GE area first, as it impacts more students, seems to have more variability in its application, and more attention has been paid to it over the last few years with the research by Enrico Manlapig and his students.

Recently Angela D'Amour sent a document to Rachel with a proposal to include co-curricular experiences into the Serving Society GE area. Rachel wondered if this was the starting place that the committee wanted to work with, or if we needed to start in a different place with the GE category. Committee members were in general agreement that this proposal showed real promise, but deeper work needed to be done to revise the GE category first before we could effectively evaluate whether to include co-curricular options into the list of possible courses for the GE category.

Michelle and Steve will work on editing the GE Combined document language to reflect what is currently happening in the GE area and to research the expectations and activities of comparable schools. A draft of this work will be done by our next GE meeting

VII. Other Business

Rachel noted that the JRD proposal was coming up at Senate for discussion this Friday. Steve Contakes will be in attendance with Rachel to help field questions on the proposal.

A discussion has started on whether students want to have more 1-unit classes offered if they are looking for additional units to reach the minimum 124 units needed for their degree. Tatiana is working with our GE student representative to see if a survey can be sent to the students asking their opinion. The suggestion was made to loop in Faculty Council on this activity so they could determine whether to make note of the survey to the faculty in advance of it being sent to students.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley