

MINUTES
General Education Committee
March 3, 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)

I. Prayer – Jana Mayfield Mullen

II. Approve the Minutes of February 17th

The meeting minutes were approved.

III. Survey to Determine Interest in 1-Unit Credit Opportunities

Tatiana reviewed the revised the student survey on 1-unit credit interest with the committee. The survey would assess student interest in having more 1-unit course options, and whether they were interested in courses on financial literacy, spiritual development, training in Microsoft applications, discussions on race and diversity, cooking, and career development. Our student rep for the GE Committee would be tasked with collecting the data once the survey format was approved.

The committee discussed the purpose of the survey and the best way forward. As a next step Tatiana will present the idea of the survey to the Academic Senate for feedback at their next meeting.

IV. Serving Society Discussion

Steve gave an update on his research on the presence of service at other colleges. What he found was that many colleges had identified areas of service, but not many had organized serving. Service seemed to be located in lots of different departments and consisted of volunteer experiences. Of the colleges examined, there also did not seem to be any in the list that connect service to the GE or academics.

The committee discussed some crucial questions as we sought to move forward:

1. Should serving society credit be given for service that is paid or only unpaid? There are some benefits to both approaches, and each approach will have impacts on the nature of the experiences and internships that students could participate in for the GE credit.
2. Can service be co-curricular and academic at the same time?

3. Where does the idea of a service requirement live? Should it remain as a capstone experience in the GE and be supervised by someone on the academic side? If so, then it needs to remain in the GE and we need to add an SLO. Should it be considered part of our mission and be moved to an overall graduation requirement? If so then it can live as a graduation requirement and it does not need to be assessed but simply completed. What we want to accomplish with this requirement will drive where it lives. Any change we make within this question would need to be approved by both Academic Senate and the full faculty.

Before our next meeting the committee members should informally discuss the idea with a few trusted colleagues to see, given the discussion in the committee, whether they think this area should be

1. A graduation requirement tied to our mission
2. A GE requirement with an appropriate SLO
3. A major requirement where service is done within the context of a course or a site specific to the discipline.
4. Removed from the GE and not a requirement at all

Committee members should be ready to present their findings and reflections at the next GE meeting.

V. GE Assessment Report Template

Tatiana reviewed the changes she made to the GE Assessment Report template based on the feedback received in the last meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley