

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**April 21, 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 March 31st**

The meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**III. The PRCs Response to the GE Annual Report**

Overall the PRC had favorable things to say to our annual report. There was a recommendation to work on the language within future documents as there were a few typos within the current report.

**IV. Provost Report to the JRD Faculty**

Rachel sent an email to Rick Ifland (Interim Provost) with a request for modest compensation for faculty development to teach and develop new JRD courses, and broader faculty training opportunities related to justice, reconciliation and diversity. Rick indicated that he can support this effort financially and that the framework offered by George Yancy is one that the board of trustees is currently working with. This framework will be used in aligning college priorities within the strategic map and in evaluating institution wide structures and initiatives.

Tatiana will talk to Rick on whether he is willing to fund only initiatives based on Yancy's work, or if he would also financially support training provided by our own faculty.

Michelle will look at the courses in the JRD proposal and identify which ones are offered next year in the fall and spring. The committee could review the fall courses over the summer to see if any can be approved now as a way to move forward on these course approvals for the incoming class of students.

**V. SOC-151 – Environmental Sociology – Add to Common Inquiries: Understanding Society**

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

The course was approved effective fall 2021. Rachel will circle back to Blake with a few notes of feedback and with the committee's approval.

**VI. Serving Society Requirement**

Jana surveyed some of the students who work in the library and in I.T on the Serving Society GE requirement. A number of them preferred to have the Serving Society requirement as part of their major, with various opportunities from within the discipline. Students did not choose the option to remove it as a requirement from the GE and have as a volunteer experience only.

Rachel emailed Eileen McQuade about the option of having book groups in the fall but has not heard back from her yet. Tatiana will continue to look for book options over the summer.

We will continue this conversation in the fall.

**VII. Information Literacy ILO**

Jana shared information on the current assessment efforts within Information Literacy. She is looking for some faculty input as we will be assessing this area next year.

The librarians had workshop in March (with Sarah Skripsky attending part of the meeting) to discuss how to move forward in assessing this ILO. One of the proposals she would like to move forward on is changing the language of the ILO. The current language was approved in 2014 and represents the issues and concerns present in that time period with information literacy.

In the last 7 years information and the use of information has changed. The new proposed language would emphasize the skills to “strategically research, wisely evaluate, and ethically integrate sources in various contexts”. These changes emphasize the shift and prevalence of varying news sources and how we use and respond to those sources of information.

Please provide any additional feedback on this proposed change to Jana.

**VIII. Planning for Last GE Committee Meeting**

Our last meeting of the year will be held in person at Rachel's house next Wednesday. She will send us directions as the date draws closer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Hardley