

MINUTES

General Education Committee

April 19, 2022

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Members present:

Stephen Contakes (Professor of Chemistry), Tara Sturges (Assistant 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)

Guest present: Theresa Covich (Library Academic Support Manager)

Agenda Items:

I. Prayer – Stephen Contakes

II. Approve the Minutes of April 5th

The committee members unanimously approved the minutes.

III. Course approvals

No courses were presented to review or approve.

IV. To-do list for the 2022-2023 academic year

A. BTFJRD Implementation

1. Stephen Contakes noted that next year's GE Committee members should refer to document "C" for the implementation plan and steps (document includes training information).
2. Pending approval of the BTF JRD GE the items to be addressed will involve the course approvals, faculty development, and assessment plans indicated in the proposal body (document C).
3. Recommendations:
 - a. Members of the Diversity Committee should be consulted and present to participate in the conversation.
 - b. If the GE is approved the committee might give attention to its inclusion in the college catalogue for next year.
 - c. Steve Contakes will be available to meet or correspond with the new GE committee and provost to answer questions about the existing proposal and process should either the new GE committee or provost deem it advisable.
 - d. Given that a large number of new GE courses may need to be approved, pending approval the committee may wish to hold a syllabus workshop to streamline the course approval process for both faculty and the committee. Such a workshop might focus on what the committee looks for in applications and what faculty might include in their syllabus to demonstrate how the course

content fulfills the BTFJRD requirement. It might even be shrewd for the committee to leave time to conduct course approvals during the workshop.

B. Serving Society work

Greg Spencer voiced the hope that the focus on the upcoming changes to this requirement will focus on the overarching vision while not getting bogged down in the minutia of details.

- a. Proposal for the E-team
 - i. Action Item: Steve Hodson - follow up with Rick Ostrander regarding this proposal and work on it over the summer of 2022.
- b. Formation of a task force - Potential members:
 - i. Steve Hodson - representative from GE Committee
 - ii. Tara Sturges - representative from Registrar's Office
 - iii. Angela D'Amour
 - iv. Scott Lisea
 - v. Paul Bradford
- c. Proposal for faculty
 - i. Involve long-term stakeholders after the proposal is firmed up

C. PE Modification

- a. Proposal: Future PE proposal should start with a vision statement
- b. Google drive contains documents with data for reference

D. Separation of Writing and Speech Intensive courses

- a. Concerns were raised regarding the different ways in which writing and speech elements are assessed.
- b. The Communication department must be involved in the conversation before and during the decision concerning this issue.
- c. Faculty from different departments should participate in this conversation in finalizing this decision.
- d. Sarah Skripsky should be invited to the committee to hear Sarah's perspective on this subject.

E. Other suggestions

- a. Modern Foreign Language requirement: This evaluation is on the horizon. It was mentioned that the MFL department has already taken a proposal before the Faculty Senate.
 - i. **Next year's GE Committee** - look toward future discussion.
- b. Abstract Reasoning (David Vander Laan): Assessment to be completed by September 2022.
- c. Consideration regarding GE course offerings: It was noted that some areas offer more sections than others and the question arose as to whether this dilutes course offerings.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Sturges