General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2013

Members Present: Brooke Burk, Lisa Czirr, Emily Quinlan, Sonia Sharma, David Smukler, Carol Van Der Karr, Tiantian Zheng

Members Absent: Yomee Lee, Bruce Mattingly

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action** |
| **Welcome new members** | * Introduction to (review of) GE Committee’s role and scope:
	+ Place to review policies related to GE
	+ Assesses GEs (a few categories each year)
	+ Approves courses that meet criteria for GE status
* David Smukler made a motion to elect Brooke Burk committee chair; Tiantian Zheng seconded; elected by unanimous vote
 | **Sonia Sharma agreed to give GE reports to Faculty Senate.** |
| **Review assessment plan** | * Some members had trouble retrieving assessment schedule on website (password protected)
* This year we will address categories 1, 4, 11 and critical thinking
* Question about how to assess “Critical Thinking”; in the past this was folded into evaluation of GE 11
 | To see schedule of which GEs we will assess this year, go to: <http://www2.cortland.edu/academics/curriculum/index.dot>Click on “General Education,” then “GE Assessment Plan 2011-2015.” The calendar is on p. 13 of this document**Brooke will put a discussion regarding assessment of critical thinking on next meeting’s agenda.** |
| **Associate Provost of Academic Affairs Report** | * Seamless Transfer issues:
	+ SUNY encourages flexibility around GE requirements
	+ Only 7 categories necessary (acc. to SUNY) for a 4-year degree.
	+ Our local requirements one of the most extensive in the SUNY system (~54 hours), leaving little space for electives, or incentive to add a minor
* Last year’s survey:
	+ 65 faculty and 157 students responded
	+ Comments rich, thoughtful, and “eloquent”
 | **Carol and Brooke will distribute raw responses from last year’s survey to committee members. They will meet sometime before 9/19 to synthesize results for discussion at next committee meeting.** |
| **Interim Director of Institutional Research and Assessment** | * Merle Canfield, former Director of Institutional Research and Assessment took a new position elsewhere. Steve Cunningham is serving in that role until a successful search is completed. Understandably, feedback about 2012 GE assessment results is delayed.
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| **New Business** | * New rubric(s) for GE 4 assessment:
	+ Currently, the same rubric is used to evaluate all GE categories except #1. History Dept. was approached about redesigning to make a rubric more useful to them. They intend to make a series of rubrics, one for ea. learning outcome.
	+ Plan is to treat this process as a pilot; if results are positive then replicate with other GE categories
 | **Brooke will check in with Randi Storch (Chair of History) to see how process of rubric redesign is going and report back to committee on 9/19.** |
| **Other Updates** | * Foreign Language: since there is no longer a NYS Regents test for foreign language, it was proposed that a score of 85% or above in the 3rd year of HS foreign language can satisfy GE 9 requirement.
	+ Unexpected positive consequence is that ASL can now count for this (not possible before because there was no ASL Regents test)
* Degree Works (new degree audit system)
	+ Will open to faculty this spring
	+ First students will be using it in Fall 2014. Those who started with CAPP will continue with CAPP, so there will be a period of transition
	+ Many features that we will like, including good ways to collect useful data
	+ Efforts to implement Degree Works have revealed discrepancies that our committee may consider
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Respectfully submitted by David Smukler

Approved 9/19/2013