General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date October 7, 2014

Members Present: Jenn McNamara, Emily Quinlan, Lisa Czirr, Carol Van Der Karr, Sam Kelley, David Smukler, Stephen Chemsak, Bruce Mattingly, Brice Smith

Members Absent : Kevin Sheets (on sabbatical)

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action** |
| Discussion of how to move forward with modifications to the current GE proposal to send back to the Faculty Senate. | There have been two additional open meetings and a meeting with Chairs from Departments most involved in 3, 4, 5, and 6. Each of the proposals to make changes to these areas have raised substantial concerns.  One new proposal is to combine 5 and 6. There were concerns from Clark Center people and others about loosing GE 6 as a separate category. There was feedback from those that felt very strongly that there was a difference of teaching from the non-western perspective versus teaching contrasting cultures or world history that can still have a western focus or western view. This is something not generally covered in secondary school and thus the GE is the only opportunity for many. There was also feedback on the need to be clear that Europe was not a non-western culture in terms of this GE.  Many of the courses in GE 6 are also in GE 3 and thus finding some ways to combine GE 6 would likely have the least impact on the least number of people.  One possible proposal would be to require courses in the combined GE 5/6 to meet all of the learning outcomes for both categories since many do already. This would need a further set of discussions with History and other departments to see if this would be possible for all the courses and if this would allow the categories to be combined with the least loss of learning outcomes for the fewest students.  There was a discussion of the science faculty survey and the feedback they gave on the current GE proposal including the large opposition from the science faculty (93% strongly oppose, 7% oppose). The common themes were around the loss of scientific literacy compared to other industrialized countries and the need for scientific literacy in  There was a discussion of exploring the possibility of re-tasking GE 12 to be a more scientifically focused category that would be focused on sustainability and other scientific learning outcomes that might be coupled with the elimination of the GE 13 category.  There was a request for any information that has been collected on the model other schools have followed to deal with the sustainability mandate in the President’s Climate Committee within or outside their GE programs.  There was a discussion of the need to make sure that the GE discussion continues to focus on the needs of transfer students which are a very large portion of our student population which can already opt out of GE 11, 12, and 13.  There was a discussion of looking more broadly at the learning outcomes of GE 12 committee to ensure that all interested faculty are able to participate in the discussion around any potential repurposing of this category to include more on science literacy around environmental issues. | Explore the learning outcomes of GE 12 to determine possibilities for refocusing it on more applied science content if GE 13 is lost. (Brice, Emily Q., Steve , Lisa S., David)  Explore the learning outcomes of GE 5 & 6 to determine what, if any, possibilities would be least disruptive if the two were combined into an either / or category (Kevin, Jenn, Carol, Sam) |
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