General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2016

Members Present: Lisa Czirr, Chris Manaseri Jenn McNamara, Frank Rossi, Kevin Sheets, David Smukler, Kim Stone, Andrew Young

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action** |
| Approval of 9/1/16 minutes |  | Minutes approved |
| GE 11 Process  | A “lively” group of stakeholder faculty (outside the GE committee) met last year discuss ways to revise or otherwise adjust GE 11. Those meetings made progress but have not resulted in consensus. To move the process along, we would like (1) to have them to share their work with us, (2) continue the process within the committee, including opportunities for anyone on campus to provide us with input. Our goal would be to create a proposal to send to Faculty Senate. | An email message to last year’s group, thanking them for their work and asking for material by 10/20, was edited by the committee. Jenn will provide it to Pam, who will send it out on behalf of the committee. |
| GE Assessment this year | Steve Cunningham unable to attend to explain this year’s assessment schedule. Jenn shared a draft of the schedule. We will be assessing:1. Modern Languages (GE 9)
2. Art and Art History (GE 8)
3. Critical Thinking Skills

There was discussion re: critical thinking skills, with committee members fairly uncertain about how this would be assessed. One idea was to not include it in an assessment schedule at all, but instead have critical thinking skills be explicitly included in assessments of all other categories as they arise (going forward). We also wondered how this was assessed in the past.  | Steve will clarify questions about rubrics, etc. and the category of critical thinking at our next meeting.Jenn will be part of a meeting with departments that offer GE 8 courses to explain assessment process and respond to questions. David will be part of a similar meeting with Modern Languages department about GE 9.  |
| User friendly assessment memos | We would like to edit current memos that go to departments informing them about the GE assessment process to improve the tone.  | Jenn will send text of current memos to Kim. Kim will draft revisions. Kevin will edit, and the whole committee will see them at our next meeting. |
| GE Course Proposal Guidelines | Are these clear? Are these what we want them to be? | Frank, Kevin and Kim will work together to draft a proposed revision to these guidelines by 11/10. Once agreed upon by the whole committee, we will send these to Faculty Senate.  |
| GE 4 | GE 4 was assessed last year, and faculty involved in that assessment would like to adjust the learning outcomes.  | Kevin will ask Bob Spitzer to create a quick memo that includes existing outcomes, proposed changes, and rationale. Ask him to send it to us by 10/13, and we will then send it to the Faculty Senate. |
| Pending GE Course Proposals in curriculog | PHY 150 (3 cr hr Intro to Astronomy) and PHY 151 (1 cr hr associated lab). Good reasons to make these two have separate course numbers, although we may also see a 4 cr hr course (PHY 155) in the future that combines them. Apparently, the system can wait to assign credit for GE 2 until both courses are complete (if not done in the same semester).PHI 320 (Environmental Ethics). The proposal used language from the older version of learning outcomes for GE 12 (“and/or” instead of “and”). This will require either a small or substantial change to course content, to make sure that the course is consistent with the current definition of GE 12 before we can approve it. Brief discussion about seeing if curriculog could auto-fill learning outcomes when a GE category is selected.ENG 110 (Intro to Inquiry). | Approved PHY 150Approved PHY 151Rejected PHI 320. Jenn will communicate with the department about changes that would allow us to approve it.Action on ENG 110 tabled for lack of time. Revisit 10/13. |
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Submitted by David Smukler