

General Education Committee
October 21, 2019
Minutes

Present: Cynthia Pengilly, Teri Walker, Michael Braunstein, Tim Hargrave, Maura Valentino, Becky Pearson, A.I. Ross, Shaffer Claridge, Joshua Buchanan, Carey Gazis, Karisa Terry, Victoria Flanagan, Michel O'Brien, Bernadette Jungblut, Gail Mackin, Toni Woodman, Mike Gimlin, and Lizzie Brown

Absent: Christopher King, and Greg Lyman

Guest(s): Scott Carlson

Meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m.

Maura moved to approve the October 14, 2019 minutes. A.I. seconded the motion and minutes were approved with one abstention.

Chair update – Becky reported the clinic on Friday morning was productive. We still need to build out the rubrics for the other components. They talked about indirect methods of assessment. A cover sheet will be sent out asking GE faculty to participate in assessment. This group talked about GE open grass roots initiative. Peer engaging network might count for certain departments or colleges. Becky is working with Public Affairs to do some short videos.

Rename 184 to Padstone - This suggestion came from Coordination and Management subgroup. This is to play off the use of capstone being the end. The committee discussed the implications of this type of change. Lizzie suggested that the Pathway coordinators bring up the name change to the students in their courses. Michael moved to submit a course change of the 184 to Padstone. Teri seconded and motion was approved as amended. Michael amended the motion that the title be “PADstone (Practice and Discovery)”. Amendment was approved.

Michael moved that the GE committee bring the name change to 184 as an informational item at the next Faculty Senate. Teri seconded and motion was approved.

Policy change to rename the GE Director. Becky would like to change the name to Executive GE Director. Without the word “Executive”, this director gets looped out of meetings that the GE Director should be in when they have GE discussions. Provost Council is one of the meetings that has a big impact on GE. DHC, School of Education, Institutional Effectiveness and International Programs hold title of Executive Director. A question was brought up if this title change would impact faculty status. It was decided that the committee needs to get additional information. Lizzie will talk with the Executive Committee about this issue.

Strategic Investment Initiative proposal - Becky asked if the committee would like her to work on a strategic investment proposal for GE. She would like to develop a center or institute for first year and university studies. It would not be a school or housing a program. This would be a structured temporary initiative to bring people together to do aspects of GE as retention that cannot be done under just GE. . Speaker series is one suggestion. Research and outreach around GE is needed.

184 sub-topic descriptions – Becky reported that the GEC cannot allow departments to craft sub-descriptions other than what is already approved and cannot be more than 35 words. Departments can only provide what was approved for sub-topic descriptions.

184 rules around when holds are placed - Becky was in a meeting around this on Friday. The rules around 184 are problematic. First year students have until 60 credits. Transfer students with 45 credits or fewer must do the 184 have three quarters to meet this. How does the committee want these rules administered? Scott requested that the holds not be put on fall quarter. These students can be emailed with the information. This would give the committee time to decide how and when the rules should be applied. There are about 300 + students that transferred in this fall that are in this category.

Moved into subgroups 4:25 p.m.

Curriculum and Assessment Sub-Committee

Meeting was called to order at 4:26 p.m.

Plan was discussed for the upcoming Majors Fair. Coordinators agreed that only Pathway Coordinators should be at the designated table (no other faculty involved in Gen Ed), and arrangements were made for at least one Coordinator to be at the table for the entire fair. Discussion revolved around what information to have available at the table. Included contact information, general information about the pathways (such as the requirement to take three courses in a pathway, and five courses get you a milestone), and possibly course offerings, both generally and for the upcoming winter quarter. Also interest in communicating which courses are offered online and as OER. Many expressed a desire to get information about upcoming courses offered earlier in the academic year.

Shaffer is setting up a meeting with Jostens about graduation cords for taking 5+ courses in a single pathway. There is some confusion on how exactly how these would work (although students would pay), but Shaffer is checking with Della Gonzalez for some clarification. Cord may consist of three colors, and different colors may be associated with different pathways. Discussion revolved around how to update students on their progress towards the milestone (individual emails? AR reports? Advising?).

Discussion began about a standardized grading schema, with A.I. Emphasizing how implementing such a shift could have a huge impact on existing courses. Implementing schema on equivalent courses (e.g., 184 courses) may see better results. Shaffer encouraged us to table this issue for the next meeting.

Briefly discussed 184 enrollment cap issue. All agreed cap should be set for 20. Shaffer to put together a draft of an email to send to faculty. Administration, associate deans, and/or department chairs. Message is set to focus on the small groups and mentorship emphasized in the course description, and the time faculty need to properly assess these courses.

Discussed how to get Pathways Coordinators and advisors on the same page. Suggestions included regular meetings with advisors and inviting advisors to future GECEM meetings. Michel still waiting for communication from Greg Rankin in academic advising and plans to follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Action Items:

1. Discuss possibility for standardized grading schema
2. Agree upon & recommend communication about the 184 20-student enrollment cap
3. Updated on Majors Fair materials
4. Follow-up on advising & graduation cord issues