

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, March 13, 2017

2:30-4:00, HUB 109

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Wendy Palmquist, Joey Rhino, Holly Oliver, Mary Campbell, Mike Davidson, Annemarie Conlon, Gail Mears, Sandra Van Gundy

Absent: Michelle Fistek, Corey Yelle, Clarissa Uttley

Approved minutes from February 27, 2017 meeting (*available on Moodle*)

Sunset Renewal and New Course Proposals:

- CM 3100 Communicating through Animation (INCO) was approved (5 yes, 0 no)

Necessary Bylaw changes

- *Designee* will be the official language!
- Committee Membership:
 - *Principal Academic Affairs Officer or Designee*-(voting)
 - *Registrar Designee* (non-voting)

Continuation of discussion on Student Requests

- There is a catalog entry relative to Gen Ed student requests stating that requests be sent to Associate VP for Undergraduate Studies/Academic Affairs (David Zehr), but that position no longer exists
- Wendy shared with Stacie Curdie (Registrar) the committee's concerns about getting involved in considering all Gen Ed student requests; we agreed to only consider requests for waivers granted in one major that are not granted in another major
- Newly hired Transfer Specialist (Melissa) is now handling all relevant Gen Ed transfer requests
- Gail will speak with Stacie and craft a proposal
- Gail will also ask Robyn & Cynthia to attend March 27th Gen Ed meeting to hash out some of this process
- Sentiment was shared with Gail that there is concern about a lack of support (resources and transparency)

- When requests come into subcommittee, create a list of decisions with accompanying rationale

4 Credit courses besides SIDI

- Current Gen Ed language (2003) sometimes includes specific mention of 3 credits; what to do?
- Proposed language –wherever it reads in Connections “3 credits” it would change to “at least 3 credits”; need to ask the faculty; be ready for push back-allows for flexibility while programs continue to consider moving to 4 credits realizing the degree credit requirements may need to be redistributed

Report on AACU Conference (Cathie LeBlanc, Sandra Van Gundy, Annemarie Conlon, Annette Holba)

- The following has been shared with Gail & Robyn
- We are not talking about a lot of new stuff; our thoughts are the same as the national conversation
 - Themes
 - Wicked Problems-though under different name
 - Capstone courses
 - Outcomes
- Emphasis on *Design Thinking*-developing empathy for the people they are doing the work for
- Find ways to get students to tell their own journeys
- Tools to make learning visible (one idea: organize transcript by learning outcomes rather than by semester chronologically); assign colors to varying outcomes
- Recommendations
 - Send teams to these conferences on a regular basis
 - Define Learning (not Gen Ed) outcomes (could be overall for entire program or specific to themes); need to keep it simpler, especially for program assessment
 - Examine Value rubrics-good place to start (16 areas such as creative thinking, team work, etc.); developed by a multi-state collaboration; tested for validity & reliability; available for free
 - Designate a “leader” (often came from faculty; maybe some course release) for Gen Ed working with a Gen Ed committee plus some other interested faculty (Gen Ed Fellows)
 - Encourage Co-teaching with full teaching load (3/4 credits) for each teacher; incentive for collaboration
 - Establish framework with a series of professional learning communities: Gen Ed, Assessment, Design Thinking
 - Use Design Thinking throughout Gen Ed overhaul; role model what we want students to do
 - Review AACU website

- Came back with ideas for speakers and books/materials
- Pilots-no need; by virtue of Gen Ed assessment, if an outcome isn't working, it will automatically rise to the top and then the topic/item can be revisited/amended
- Suggestion to align learning outcomes with all aspects of campus: residential life, student orgs, co-curricular, etc.

Gen Ed Working Group:

Sandra, Annmarie, Joey, Michelle, Cathie, & COBA representative (Gail will try and find someone)

- Work on Learning Outcomes at a retreat on April 7th, 2017
- Work with Student Senate on open forum or two for students to discuss the kinds of connections/themes they see in Gen Ed
- FYI-Curriculum Committee is sponsoring a campus forum on April 18th to discuss structure/support for clusters and how to integrate into the curriculum
- Elliot Gruner-UNH Discovery program-how is this program doing? They do have a Director of Gen Ed

FYS Working Group:

- Reworked FYS Goals and Annette will send to Robyn

Other?

Next meeting: March 27, 2017!