

General Education Committee Minutes: 3/19/2019

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Khagendra Thapa (CET), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Dawn Schavey (EIO), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs)

Guests Present: Amy Buse (MyDegree Project, Academic Affairs), Amy Greene (EIO).

Absent: Julie Ward (COHP), John Scott Gray (CAS), Kristy Motz (FLITE), and Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator).

Announcement: The Director will not be on campus on 3/28/2019 for the next meeting, so the meeting will consist of electronic votes.

1. Approval of Agenda

The NURS 470 course for collaboration was tabled to the electronic vote in place of the 3/28 meeting, as the decision forms were not furnished in time for consideration.

The CARE courses were tabled to the April 9 meeting, as they raise questions that will need substantial discussion.

With these modifications, the agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda

Minutes from Feb. 28 meeting: Besides two abstentions, approved unanimously.

3. MyDegree Questions

Amy Buse presented the committee with two challenges related to transfer and MyDegree:

- When a course is transferred from an institution on a quarter system, Ferris accepts 2/3 of the credits, resulting in some students having a number of credits towards a general education requirement that is not a whole number.
- Some students transfer in more than 9 credits in either Self and Society or Culture, and less than 9 credits in the other competency.

The committee discussed the first, but not the second. This issue is primarily, but not exclusively, a general education problem. More specifically, the problem arises with Self and Society and Culture. A 4-credit course at an institution on a quarter system transfer to Ferris as a 2.67 credit course. As a consequence, several students transfer in 8.67 credits of either Culture or Self and Society (or both). If we do not require students who would otherwise satisfy the requirements to take another course, this problem will require a large number of exceptions to be entered into MyDegree. In addition, there is no way to guarantee that advisors would uniformly ask for such exceptions. Amy said she would try to identify how frequent this problem is, but that this is not a simple question.

Recently, MyDegree was programmed to require 8 credits in order to receive the check mark for completion. However, a case has arisen in which a non-transfer student has completed 8 credits for one of the competencies and otherwise has satisfied all of the requirements. Programming 8.1 credits doesn't work, and rounding the 2.67 credits to 3 credits would cause cascading financial aid problems.

The general education committee was asked for guidance as to what we want among the options:

- Allow a student with 8 credits in a competency that otherwise satisfies all of the requirements to be deemed to have completed the requirement. In this case, Amy will need a justification that she can use to explain to students why some take 9 credits to satisfy the requirement and others take 8 credits.
- Require that a student who falls short of 9 credits by a fraction to complete at least 1 additional credit to satisfy the requirement. While this is the simplest, note that there is a real financial consequence to the student. In addition, while there are multiple Culture activity courses that are 1 credit, the same isn't true for Self and Society. Asymmetry risks causing confusion among advisors.
- Allow a student who falls short of 9 credits by a fraction to be deemed to have satisfied the requirement. If this is the option we choose, the programmers will try to find a way to make this work, but that may not be possible.

Victor will seek the recommendation of the subcommittees, who must respond by April 16 in order for changes to be made for the 2019-20 academic year. In the interim, Amy was advised to not make further changes.

4. Subcommittee Appointments: The committee held an electronic vote on the proposed process for committee and subcommittee appointments. The vote was sent on Tuesday March 19 at 1:00 pm and ended on Wednesday March 20 at 5:00 pm.

The results were 5 in favor, 2 abstentions.

5. Problem Solving Revisions: The committee held an electronic vote on the proposed revisions to the operational definition and second FLO for Problem Solving. The vote was sent on Tuesday March 19 at 1:00 pm and ended on Wednesday March 20 at 5:00 pm.

The results for the revised operational definition were 5 in favor, 2 abstentions

The results for the revised FLO 2 were 6 in favor, 1 abstention.