

General Education Committee Minutes: 9/10/2019

11 am – 12 noon, BUS 222

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Khagendra Thapa (CET), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Amy Greene (EIO), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Mary Beaudry (COHP), Monica Frees (RSS), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs),

Guests Present: Mandy Seiferlein (Academic Affairs)

Absent: Rachel Faulk (CAS), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE)

1. Introductions

The committee members introduced themselves.

2. Announcements

The revised proposal process was outlined.

3. Approval of Agenda. Approved unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

- Norms

Item 13 in our list of norms was rephrased as “Support the University mission.”

With rephrasing, approved unanimously.

5. Proposals

None

6. Assessment and Data-Use

- Brief update on assessment efforts (Cliff Franklund)

Spring 2019 data is due October 1, 2019. We are currently registering Fall 2019 courses for data collection. Typically, about 200 courses are registered. While we can say that about 80% of registrations are followed-through, the measurements are unclear due to different approaches to assessment in different units. A WebFocus report can be used to compare the number of

students registered to the number assessed. Based on this data, we can say we are obtaining general education assessment data for between 25% and 30% of registered students.

We discussed utilizing Canvas for assessment, and this is a topic of discussion among others on campus as well.

Last semester, the General Education Assessment Coordinator held discussions with the Mathematics Department about quantitative literacy assessment data and with the Biology Department about natural science assessment data. This was a pilot of an approach to closing the loop.

- Generating a data-use plan

The committee discussed the formation of a data-use plan. The priorities laid out were:

1. The plan should be simple and easy to use.
2. The plan should address how the data will **not** be used. For example, assessment data should not be used in the tenure and promotion process. The plan may include a specific recommendation to the Provost related to this point. The plan should also indicate the limitations of the conclusions that can be drawn from the data.
3. The plan should be integrated with other data analysis and use plans taking place on campus.

The committee formed a working group dedicated to developing a data use plan which consists of Victor Piercey, Cliff Franklund, Amy Greene, Khagendra Thapa, and Paul Zube. Mandy Seiferlein will be available to consult.

- Generating a general education assessment policy

The policy that indicates that general education assessment is required is the recertification policy. Courses are recertified for general education status every five years. A major condition for recertification is the collection of assessment data and the use of those data to improve the teaching of the course. The committee determined that this expectation needs to be communicated early and often, and should also be part of the data-use plan. The committee also noted that this approach to requiring assessment entails consequences for the course, not the faculty, which was deemed to be an advantage.