

General Education Committee Minutes: 2/11/2020

11 am – 12 noon, FLITE 135

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), Khagendra Thapa (CET), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Rachel Foulk (CAS), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), Amy Greene (EIO), and Mary Beaudry (COHP).

Absent: Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), Monica Frees (RSS), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs).

1. Approval of Agenda: Approved unanimously
2. Consent Agenda: Approved unanimously
 - Minutes for 1/23/2020
3. Announcements
 - Update on initiatives (themed student learning communities, badging, data use)
 - o Victor Piercey, Mark Kermit-Canfield, and Monica Frees have a draft of a proposal to FCTL for a faculty learning community. They will finalize and submit by March.
 - o Victor Piercey, Mary Beaudry, and Jimmie Joseph have started outlining a badge for gen ed leadership. In this process, they are looking through best practices.
 - o The philosophy of data use has been discussed with Academic Affairs. It was sent to the FFA and FNTFO presidents for comment, and they are discussing an appropriate forum for discussion with union representation.
 - Upcoming meetings (culture requirement on 3/5, communication in April)
 - o The proposal to change the culture requirement will be discussed with guests at the 3/5 meeting. It was pointed out that the UGEC is too small to make a programmatic change by ourselves. Once we decide how we want to respond, we will figure out the appropriate process.
 - o Faculty from ELWL will visit during one of our April meetings to discuss the COMM-related issues on our running annual agenda. The specific April meeting has not been determined.

- Closing the Loop Conversation Update
 - o Invitations to all of the remaining meetings have gone out.
 - o The culture conversation focused on data collection processes.
 - o The report for the natural science foundation conversation has been sent to the subcommittee for approval.

- AGMT 360
 - o This course was proposed for culture, and rejected last year. The proposer has revised the course and submitted it again. The subcommittee has sent it back for revisions twice and is now up for a final vote. If the proposal is rejected, it will likely be appealed to the UGEC. If it is approved, it is unlikely to be unanimous, in which case the UGEC will have to discuss it.

4. Proposals: None

5. Credential Statement

The following statement was approved unanimously:

The University General Education Committee and the competency subcommittees do not evaluate the credentials of faculty teaching general education courses. The committees only evaluate whether or not a course fits a proposed general education attribute. The unit that hosts the course is responsible for determining the appropriate credentials for faculty teaching the course. Units are encouraged to consider best practices in teaching general education in selecting faculty to teach their general education courses.

The University General Education Committee also believes that offering professional development for faculty teaching general education courses would benefit the delivery of general education at Ferris State University as well as enhance collaboration across campus. To that end, the University General Education Committee will identify opportunities to provide professional development associated with general education, including the forms the professional development could take, the stakeholders involved, scheduling opportunities, and how the university and colleges can recognize the value of such professional development.

6. Discussion: Conversion of Transfer Credits from Quarter to Semester (Amy Buse, Angie Mishler): Tabled by a unanimous vote.

7. Running Annual Agenda (as time permits)

- Gen Ed Articulation

Some courses that transfer to Ferris do not match with a specific course and are given general credit in a discipline and at a specified level (100, 200, etc.). In some cases, those courses were taken for general education purposes. The UGEC discussed who should evaluate those transfer courses for general education and decided, given the volume of such transfers, that we support current practices: department chairs make the decision, and if they decide they may consult with an appropriate general education subcommittee.