

General Education Committee Minutes: 4/14/2020

11 am – 12 noon, Online

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Rachel Foulk (CAS), Monica Frees (RSS), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), and Mary Beaudry (COHP).

Absent: Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Khagendra Thapa (CET), Amy Greene (EIO), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs).

1. Approval of Agenda: Approved unanimously
2. Consent Agenda: Approved unanimously
 - Minutes for 3/19/2020
3. Announcements
 - CHEM 231/PHYS 450

The natural science attribute was deleted from these two courses. RAM made sure that no consultations were required, and the subcommittee chair and Director of General Education both approved. In the future, we should clarify a process for deletions of general education attributes.

It was also noted that students who took one of these courses prior to the effective date of the deletion will not be effected, only those taking the course after the deletion takes effect.

- ECON 201/202

ECON 221 and 222 were renumbered in a more comprehensive proposal from the Economics faculty. The reason was to reverse the order of macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Since there were no substantive changes, the transfer of general education attributes was approved. In the future, we should clarify a process for the transfer of general education attributes when a course is renumbered.

- AMGT 360 (Next Meeting)

At the next meeting, the committee will consider a proposal to add culture to AMGT 360. This is the second proposal for this course, the first was rejected by the subcommittee last year. The current proposal went through two rounds of revisions and was approved by a vote of 4 to 1 (the subcommittee only has 5 members this year), and the one who voted against the proposal resigned from the subcommittee.

The committee discussed the role of the rejected proposal and decided that the rejected proposal would be included in the files, and we will reflect after the decision about our norms and expectations in cases like this.

- SJCS 495/Credits or Courses for COLL/PROB?

The social justice program proposal has two collaboration and two problem solving courses. While the problem solving subcommittee has not made a decision, the collaboration subcommittee asked for revisions for one course and approved the other.

The courses for the social justice program do not add up to 6 credits for collaboration or problem solving, and the committee must determine whether the requirement should be 2 courses or 6 credits.

4. Proposals

- None

5. Discussion: Culture – Activities

The committee continued to discuss a recommendation from members of the Humanities Department and English, Literature, and World Languages Department to change the culture competency by (a) removing the requirement that students take courses carrying at least two prefixes, and (b) the limitation on activities credits. The focus for this meeting was on the second.

Currently there is a limit of 5 credits for “activities credits” – which are music courses (such as Concert Band) and theater practicums. All are 1 credit courses with the exception of an advanced theater practicum, which is 2 credits.

The original recommendation was to raise the cap from 5 credits to 6 on the grounds that since other culture courses carry 3 credits, a cap that is not a multiple of 3 causes problems. During the 3/5/2020 meeting, the recommendation was expanded to deleting the distinction between activities and

non-activities culture courses. This would allow students to complete all 9 credits of their culture courses with activities.

The distinction between activities and non-activities courses remains unclear – studio art classes (which carry 3 credits) are non-activities, for example. The difference may have to do with repeatability.

The committee asked whether there were any differences in the assessment data for activities courses and non-activities courses, but this cannot be determined since data is only labeled by course level, not by course.

The primary concern with deleting the distinction was whether or not all four culture outcomes could be met in activities courses, particularly as they are 1-credit courses. If we also delete the two-prefix requirement discussed at the 3/19/2020 meeting, then a student completing all of their culture requirement without experiencing all four culture outcomes. If the activities distinction were removed but the two-prefix requirement remained, with a process for exceptions for minors and similar culture programs, then this concern would be minimized.

Next steps: Over the summer, the Director of General Education will prepare a memo summarizing the options together with pros and cons which will be reviewed by the committee. In the fall, the committee will discuss the options with the new VPAA.