

General Education Committee Minutes: 9/08/2020

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), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), and Mary Beaudry (COHP).

Absent: Amy Greene (EIO), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs).

1. Approval of Agenda: Approved unanimously
2. Announcements
 - Haste to Rise Reading Group: Victor is organizing a general-education themed reading group. The book is available electronically through the library.
 - Faculty Learning Community for Spring 2021: Monica, Mari, and Victor will be facilitating a faculty learning community on developing student learning communities integrating general education and major programs.
3. Working Groups for the Year
 - APR Report: General Education is on the APR calendar for this year and our report is due by January 31. Cliff and Paul will help prepare the report. Victor will speak to the APRC co-chairs on Oct. 12 to discuss what APR looks like for general education. The UGEC will have a sign-off on the final report.
 - Communication: Rachel will join the working group on a communication plan.
 - Badging: Jimmie, Mary, and Victor will continue working on developing a badging plan.
4. CULT Change Proposal: Review

In Spring 2018, the ELWL and HUMN chairs proposed two changes to the CULT requirement: (a) remove the requirement that students must take culture courses with two distinct prefixes, and (b) remove the distinction between activities and non-activities culture courses.

The UGEC reviewed a summary of pros and cons that will be sent to the Provost. The committee decided to split the pros/cons table into one for each of the two proposals.

In addition, the following were added as cons:

- Recertification of activities courses may be more difficult if we delete the distinction, as the activities courses may not hit all four outcomes for CULT.
- If we delete the two-prefix requirement, should there be a limitation on how many CULT credits (or general education credits) with programs (majors, minors, and certificates)?

Finally, in past discussions, a potential compromise and the two-prefix requirement could be to allow a program coordinator for a minor to petition to allow students in the minor to be exempted from the two-prefix requirement. We noted that this may open the door to a large number of such petitions.

5. Processes:

- Deletion of GE Attribute

Summary: If a hosting unit (department, school, area, etc.) wants to voluntarily delete a general education attribute from a course, a proposal to do so does not require general education subcommittee or UGEC review. The subcommittee chair and Director can sign off on their own, with consultation forms sent to those programs whose checksheets use the course in question.

Approved unanimously.

Comment: The use of the curricular process, in particular consultation, was discussed with RAM in Summer 2019. What is new in this proposal is the level of general education review.

- Change of Prefix/Number of a Course

Summary: If a curriculum proposal involves changing a prefix or number of a gen ed course, so long as the course in question isn't changed substantively, the subcommittee chair and Director of General Education can sign off on the change without committee review.

Approved unanimously.

Comment: We recognized that there may be similar scenarios that arise in which case we will update this process.

- Changes to Defining Criteria

Sometimes a subcommittee may want to propose a change to the operational definition, hallmark of a bulldog, relevance, or Ferris Learning Outcomes (collectively, the “defining criteria”) of a general education competency.

The UGEC expressed no objection to Victor sharing a draft process with the UCC and Senate for feedback.