

General Education Committee Minutes: 3/18/2021

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Monica Frees (RSS), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Jake Pollak (former COEHS), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), Paul Zube (FNTFO), and Rachel Foulk (CAS).

Absent: Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs), Katie Kalata (COB), Mary Beaudry (COHP), and Amy Greene (EIO).

11 am – 12 noon, Online

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously

2. Announcements:

- Closing the Loop follow-ups with QL and PROB subcommittees scheduled.
- APR report approved by Senate, process to change defining criteria approved by Senate
- Upcoming question: can a course petition to be COMW at 100 or 200 level, or COMS?
- Start thinking about summer retreat: how can we support proposers and subcommittee members? How can we address challenges facing proposers from outside CASE?

3. Consent Agenda

- Minutes for February 25, 2021

Approved with 1 abstention (otherwise unanimous)

4. Proposals

- None

5. Recertification: Define purpose, plan steps to restart

Purposes of recertification:

- Confirm that we are holding courses to the same standards.

- Opportunity to reprioritize: help older courses adapt to the new general education outcomes.
- Examine our outcomes: sometimes courses may need to adapt to the outcomes, but we may also have to revise our outcomes as well, and this could come out of the recertification process.
- Improve our own processes – check data to see if our courses are meeting criteria
- Quality control – collect and examine data on how well we are implementing a competency/outcome-based gen ed as a shift from our prior discipline-based gen ed.
- Hold courses accountable for the collection of assessment data.

We are looking at a finite, fixed number of meetings in the Fall 2021 semester with the intent to roll out the revised process in Spring 2022.

While we will invite all faculty, we will specifically target (and schedule meetings around):

- Chairs of general education subcommittees
- FFA/FNTFO leadership
- Department heads/chairs (including directors of schools)
- Senate executive committee members
- Chair of the University Assessment Committee

We will deploy announcements and invitations to join in April. At our summer retreat, we will plan the meetings, including the number of meetings, the dates, and the agendas. This will allow us to get started right away in the fall.

Current questions for this group are: (a) what should the recertification schedule/rotation look like? (b) What should proposers/applicants have to submit? (c) What criteria should subcommittees and the UGEC use for evaluation?

6. Advisory Board: What should the composition be?

Our APR recommendations included an advisory board for purposes of getting external advice that might help with student success. Purposes of an advisory board for gen ed are unclear, although they might include hearing from alumni on how prepared they feel for work/citizenship/lifelong learning, hearing from current students on how well they feel that are being prepared for the same purposes, and finding blindspots.

Alternatives to forming an advisory board could include any or all of:

- Developing a closer relationship with an external organization (such as the Association for General and Liberal Studies, which has an institutional membership option), similar to Honors.
- Adding gen ed related questions into surveys to internship supervisors

- Adding gen ed related questions into alumni surveys
- Adding a current student to the UGEC.

Questions we may want to ask in surveys might include:

- What MOOCs have you participated in?
- What cultural events have you attended?
- What books have you read?
- What liberal arts pursuits have inspired you to learn more?

We might want to ask our faculty as a way of examining our university community.