

## **General Education Committee Minutes: 2/1/2024**

**Present:** Victor Piercey (Director of General Education), Michele Harvey (Senate Liaison), Monica Frees (RSS), Angela Ryan (Professional Advisors), Kristin Oplinger (Non-Tenure Line), Rhonda Bishop (CHP), Rachel Foulk (CASE), Katie Kalata (UAC), and Katherine Wolfer (COB).

**Guest:** Heather Pavletic (APR)

**Absent:** Andrew Peterson (EIO), Jason Kruze (CET), and Mandy Seiferlein (Academic Affairs).

11 am – 12 noon, Zoom

1. Approval of Agenda

**Approved unanimously.**

2. Discussions:

- Assessment:

**Questions:**

1. What information do we need from departments this semester?
2. Who should provide us with that information?
3. How should we solicit that information?

**Status of Implementing Helio System:** Currently working on configuring – including uploading exiting data, integrating Canvas, and integrating Banner data. Moving toward training, which will be a train-the-trainer model. Once switch is flipped to turn the system on, we can link with Canvas, and we will be able to enter data from fall and spring. We need to do it right the first time – that will make the load much easier in the long run. Part of the challenge is that there are courses and programs without outcomes in the system.

In short – getting the new system up and running is very labor-intensive, but it will be worth the effort in the end.

Challenge with gen ed – the gen ed outcomes needed to be updated as the system only had the old outcomes. Inputting gen ed as a **program** – the FLOs are the program outcomes that can aligned with gen ed courses. These outcomes will need to be linked with assignments in Canvas, and possibly with course-level outcomes.

If we connect gen ed outcomes with an assignment without linking to a course outcome, then what happens if that assignment isn't used in a section? Better to use course outcomes.

If we use different assignments, then it might diminish the comparative value of the data. System can track the difference. Advantage of linking to course-level outcomes, it puts the focus on course-level assessment and departmental discussions without having to involve gen ed.

Issues with assessment champions – compensation. Won't go anywhere on a volunteer basis.

We also need to determine whether to put our foot down about linking course and gen ed outcomes.

The work that is involved, getting trained and training others, is a great deal of work and if the university wants to do this, they need to provide compensation (arguably load reductions).

On the other hand, this will (and already is) land in the laps of program coordinators who are also stretched too thin. We need to be very clear on our recommendations so it doesn't just fall to program coordinators.

Questions for us – how much freedom do we want to give departments and faculty?

It would be helpful to see some examples and templates. Is there a way to see what the possibilities are?

Options:

- Let programs decide.
- Link course outcomes to gen ed outcomes
- Some combination.

Probably need to see the software first.

**Summary:** Decisions will have to wait until we have a chance to see the options in a demonstration. The director will share this point, along with the fact that gen ed is treated as a program, with the Senate, with a promise for more info and requests once we can make these decisions.

We should be mindful of having a conversation with the unions once we make the decision.

3. Announcements:

- Gen Ed Director Position Update

Still need applications.

- Update on Process for Changing Gen Ed Program

Conversations with RAM about this process, aligning our process closer to the curriculum process.