Grand Valley State University

***General Education Committee Meeting***

167 Lake Ontario Hall

Minutes of 12/1/2014

**PRESENT**: Kirk Anderson, Chair; Emily Frigo; Gabriele Gottlieb; Melba Hoffer; Andrew Kalafut; Sarah King; Brian Kipp; Paola Leon; Josita Maouene; Linda Pickett; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey

**ALSO PRESENT:** C. “Griff” Griffin, Director, General Education; Jeanne Whitsel, General Education Office Coordinator

**NOT PRESENT:**  Ella Fritzemeier; Haiying Kong; Jose Lara; Martina Reinhold; Paul Sicilian\*

\* Participating by email despite conflict with meetings

| Agenda Items | Discussion | Action Taken |
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| **Approval of current Agenda** |  | Approved per consensus |
| **Approval of 11/17/2014 Minutes** | Members discussed editing minutes from past several meetings to remove comments regarding CAR reviews, as some material in the actual response letters may differ slightly from the meeting discussions. The chair agreed to edit the minutes from past several meetings in this manner. | P. Thorpe moved to approve the minutes upon amendment. M. Hoffer second, motion carried 13-0. |
| **Asking faculty to put GE goals on syllabi – see Director’s attachments** | We have been sending instructors a generic syllabus attachment to the “First Day Letter” (email) at the beginning of each term. Committee voted to change the generic version to Option E of the director’s attachments, with the insertion of the following line to tie the two parts together: “This course satisfies one or more of the General Education graduation requirements.”  Members were asked to send any further suggestions for edits to the accompanying “First Day” email to either the chair or the director. | Chair will send the amended document to the director. Director will have the new version sent to instructors after grades are due. |
| **Director’s Report** | Consisted of the syllabus attachment discussion, after which she had to leave. |  |
| **Curriculum items for consideration**  **Log 8451: Course change – LAS 475, Latinos/as in West Michigan [new to GEC]**   * **LAS 475 is currently a Themes course. The change is to add the course to Cultures: US Diversity and Issues: Identity. FYI, the current syllabus is included in the system.**   **Log 8468: New course – HNR/WGS/PLS 334, Sex, Power, and Politics [returning to GEC, from winter semester. The original proposal can be accessed via Bb.]**   * + **This is to be an Issues (Identity) course. FYI, there are 3 letters of support in the system.**   + **Note that the amendment requested by Keith/GEC on 2/5/14 complained about the lack of a focus on race/ethnicity regarding the US Diversity category. Also note that the proposer has “unchecked” the US Diversity box.**   **Log 8748: Course change – HST 333, Modern China [new to GEC]**   * + **Note: The change is to add the course to Historical Perspectives. FYI, the current syllabus is included in the system.** | **LAS 475 Log #8451**  U.S. Diversity goals were covered in the SoR but the Identity Issue goals were not included. Otherwise the proposal content was considered model-worthy.  It appears that the questions and answers were mixed up for Information Literacy, presumably another Sail issue. Chair will approve the course with an acknowledgment of the ordering problem in the Comment field, but would rather not ask the proposer to go in and correct it in Sail. If a comment is entered, at least this problem will then become part of the approval history for future reference.  Chair will send feedback to Sail to let them know that this type of mix-up keeps happening, and will ask Sail to confirm that they are fixing the problem.  Chair will request that the proposer add the Identity goals to the SoR and ask permission to use the content as a model. We can’t use the actual proposal in its current state due to the mismatched questions and answers, but we could use the content in the future.  The amended item is to be returned to the chair only.  **HNR/WGS/PLS 334 Log #8468**  The proposer had removed the request to add the course to the U.S. Diversity category, but the U.S. Diversity language is still included in the proposal. Proposal will be approved upon removal of this portion.  The amended item is to be returned to the chair only.  It was also noted that in Sail, the “Resources” questions apparently default to Yes, regardless of whether further resources are needed.  **HST 333 – Log #8748**  This is an upper division course with a Junior Standing prerequisite. This is inconsistent with the overall intent of Foundations courses, which should be available to students at the lower levels. It was suggested that World Perspectives would be a more appropriate category for the course. The content goals would work there but the skills goals would need to be changed. It was decided to table the issue until it could be discussed with the director, who was no longer present. | Chair will send feedback to Sail.  G. Gottlieb moved to have chair ask proposer to add Identity goals to SoR and request permission to use content as a model. D. Vessey second, motion carried 13-0.  S. Strouse moved to approve upon removal of U.S. Diversity reference. P. Thorpe second, motion carried 13-0.  Chair will send feedback to Sail on the “Resources” problem.  S. King moved to table, J. Maouene second, motion passed 13-0. |
| **CAR reviews, round 2**   * **Time for groups to discuss their assigned CARs among themselves** * **Reports/committee discussion as necessary** | Time was given for the groups to discuss reviews of the following CARs:  **ART 335**  **HNR 246**  **HST 208**  **MUS 218**  **PLS 105** | Drafts of reply letters will be sent to the chair. |
| **Chair’s Report** | The next meeting will be held January 5, 2015 in DeVos Center. |  |
| **Adjournment** |  | 4:20 pm |