

Grand Valley State University
General Education Committee Meeting

303C DeVos
Minutes of 1/25/2016

PRESENT: Kirk Anderson, Chair; Emily Frigo; Gabriele Gottlieb; Haiying Kong; Paola Leon; Kimberly McKee; Melba Velez Ortiz; LeShell Palmer; Linda Pickett; Eric Ramsson; Paul Sicilian; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; Jeremy Turnbull; David Vessey

ALSO PRESENT: C. “Griff” Griffin, Director, General Education; Jennifer Cathey, General Education Office Coordinator

NOT PRESENT: Hsiao-Ping Chen; Huihui Qi; Jeremy Robinson*

*Participating via email despite conflict with meetings

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
Approval of current Agenda	No discussion.	Approved per consensus
Approval of 1/11/2016 Minutes	No discussion.	Approved per consensus
--Log 9282: New Course – CMB 321, Designing our future: Babies, Food, Medicine, and Biotechnology [returning proposal] To count for Issues: Information, Innovation, and Technology.	<p><u>CMB 321</u> A member noted that the changes were easy to spot, since they were in caps. The committee wondered if we should ask authors to put amendments in caps/bold/italics going forward. Chair stated that we can request that when asking for an amendment.</p> <p>In the Gen Ed form, the proposer categorized the methods as either group or individual, and changed the group work deliverable to a group white paper and group oral presentation. The revised Gen Ed form addressed the amendment request satisfactorily. However, this clarification was not evident in the Methods of Evaluation section of the SoR.</p> <p>Ask for another amendment to add the group white paper and group oral to the methods of evaluation in SoR.</p>	P. Thorpe moved to ask for another amendment. M. Ortiz second. Motion carries 13-0. Amendment to be returned to the chair.
--Log 9315: Course Change – GPY/ECO/PA 385,	<p><u>GPY 385</u> The committee noted a few concerns. In the “letters of support,” the email messages from the proposer to ECO and PA fail to mention that the course is changing from Themes to Issues. Only the</p>	M. Ortiz moved to ask for an amendment. P.

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<p>Economic Geography of the United States [new to GEC, submitted 12/14/2015] To count for Issues: Information, Innovation, and Technology.</p>	<p>title and description change is noted. For both content goals, 10 measures are listed, including critique, lab report, oral presentation, and individual project. The explanation for “how will you teach” does not give us any information to know what these measures are exactly. For the skills goals, it isn’t clear what the critique or observation are, and self-evaluation is missing (for collaboration and integration). The course change form gives winter 2016 as the start date – this needs to be changed to summer 2016 at the earliest.</p> <p>Member stated that a group oral presentation is listed in the Gen Ed form but there is no mention of it in the SoR methods of evaluation. A member speculated that it is probably part of the group project, but we can’t tell for sure. Member asked if stating “I will teach students…” is satisfactory or do we expect them to explain <u>how</u> they will teach. Chair said that we would like more of an explanation, but we often settle for this level of detail</p> <p>Amendment to ask for letters of support that show this will be a Gen Ed Issues course, ask for clarification on the Gen Ed form measures and have the SoR reflect those things, ask for a better explanation on how they will teach Collaboration, and change the effective date in the New Course Form to Summer or Fall 2016.</p>	<p>Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 14-0. Proposal to be returned to committee.</p>
<p>-- Log 9317: Course Change – GPY 335, Globalization and Development [new to GEC] To count for Issues: Globalization.</p>	<p><u>GPY 335</u></p> <p>Members agreed that the same concerns were felt as in the GPY 385 proposal. Member asked if we should be concerned there is not enough individual assessment measures under Collaboration. Chair stated that self and peer evaluations meet the current criteria.</p> <p>Amendment to ask for clarification on the Gen Ed form measures, ask for a better explanation on how they will teach Collaboration, and change the effective date in the New Course Form to Summer or Fall 2016.</p>	<p>S. Strouse moved to ask for an amendment. P. Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 14-0. Proposal to be returned to committee.</p>
<p>--Log 9318: Course Change – GPY/PA 324, Urbanization [new to GEC] To</p>	<p><u>GPY 324</u></p> <p>Members questioned what the performance measure would be for the course. Member stated there was no letter of support from PA. Member stated that it wasn’t specific on how they will teach Collaboration.</p>	<p>S. Strouse moved to ask for an amendment. P. Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 14-0.</p>

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count for Issues: Sustainability.	Amendment to ask for a letter of support from PA, ask for clarification on the measures and have the SoR reflect those things, ask for a better explanation on how they will teach Collaboration, and change the effective date in the New Course Form to Summer or Fall 2016.	Proposal to be returned to committee.
Creating a new Interdisciplinary Foundation category	<p>Member asked how having this category will help our program. Director stated that there are some courses that don't fit into existing Gen Ed categories and there are other institutions that offer these courses and we don't have a way to transfer these courses into Gen Ed for them. There is also a growing interest nationally in these types of courses. It could provide students with additional options without being another requirement. Member asked if Issues courses are interdisciplinary. Director said that some may be taught that way but we do not require them to be. Another member stated that based on the definitions sent by Melba, Issues courses would be interdisciplinary courses. Member stated that Issues courses use multiple disciplines but may not use them together as an interdisciplinary course would require. Member stated that with Integration as a goal, Issues courses require the integration of different disciplines which makes them interdisciplinary. Member asked how a foundation course can be interdisciplinary. Member said that by integrating humanities and social and behavioral sciences you get different perspectives and an interdisciplinary course. Director stated that 60% of GE programs have Interdisciplinary categories. Member asked if we can add the category to Gen Ed without adding credits. Director stated that we can rearrange the boxes. Member questioned if a course is truly interdisciplinary shouldn't two faculty members teach it. Another member stated that many faculty members are trained as interdisciplinary scholars. Member stated that the leadership at GVSU is pushing us to be a more global campus with interdisciplinary courses. Member stated that if we have an interdisciplinary box then we need to be very careful on who is teaching it so that is being taught in an interdisciplinary way. Member asked how we know, based on credentials, if they are able to teach interdisciplinary courses since many have skills and training that is not apparent. Member asked if someone proposes an interdisciplinary course do they have to choose the category the student will receive credit in and then defend it. Director said yes and the form would be set up so they had to choose categories and then defend them. Member stated that in the Health Sciences interdisciplinary is part of their accreditation. Member stated that ENS is creating an interdisciplinary course in Gen Ed and questioned if we are setting the bar too high by making interdisciplinary courses try to pick a category. Member asked why courses that come in for approval don't become Brooks College interdisciplinary courses. Director stated that it does not matter if it's a Brooks College course they still need a Gen Ed category to assign to it for credit. Director stated that we could move Issues and/or interdisciplinary courses to one at the beginning of the course work to one at the end of the coursework so they are getting Integration early on and</p>	

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	<p>at the end. Member asked if this would have to go through the full curricular process. Director said it would have to go through Academic Senate but not UCC. Member said it would be ideal to have an interdisciplinary box of its own and allow faculty to choose where it fits best. It may pull in brand new classes that we never knew existed. Members agreed that this issue should be made a priority for next year.</p>	
Rubric revisions	Tabled to next meeting.	
Chair's Report	No report.	
Director's Report	CARs are due February 1.	
Adjournment		4:30pm