

Grand Valley State University  
**General Education Committee Meeting**

167 Lake Ontario Hall  
 Minutes of 9/21/2015

**PRESENT:** Kirk Anderson, Chair; Hsiao-Ping Chen; Emily Frigo; Gabriele Gottlieb; Haiying Kong; Kimberly McKee; Melba Velez Ortiz; LeShell Palmer; Linda Pickett; Huihui Qi; Eric Ramsson; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; Jeremy Turnbull; David Vessey

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

**NOT PRESENT:** Paola Leon; Paul Sicilian\*

\*Participating via email despite conflict with meetings

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
<b>Approval of current Agenda</b>	No discussion.	Approved per consensus
<b>Approval of 9/14/2015 Minutes</b>	No discussion.	Approved per consensus
<b>Curriculum items for consideration</b> -Log 8746: New course – STA 341, Demographic Methods [new to GEC, submitted 9/10/2015] To count for Issues: Globalization.  -Log 8956: Course change – PHI 343, Philosophy of Religion [new to GEC, submitted	<b>STA 341</b> Member asked about the prerequisites narrowing the enrollment. He thinks there are too many prerequisites. There are two statistic courses required to take the course. Chair stated that one is Introduction to Stats. The other requirement is just a methods level course in any department not necessarily statistics. Director stated that records will not code that, and not every major has a methods course. With STA 216 as a requirement, does this limit the course to just statistics majors and minors? Modern Languages went through this with the 202 language requirement to get World Perspectives credit. The pool of students who get to this level of a language is large and therefore, we accepted it. Chair stated that there was a specific set of prerequisites on the first draft and CCC asked for an amendment to say just STA 215 or 312 and an upper level research methods course. Member stated that this still seems too exclusive because it could be helpful for other majors but they may never meet the prerequisites. Director also stated they could ask for STA 216 or by permit. Instructor could have the student argue they have the skills necessary to enroll in the course. Member stated that the requirements are good. The course wants students with stats experience and upper level research method experience. Director stated that the audience for the course may be too small and we wouldn't be able to fill a course. The author of the proposal noted that students need a deeper knowledge of stats than just STA 215. Director emailed records to ask	Chair will speak with proposer in person ASAP about the prereqs.

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<p>9/10/2015] To count for Issues: Identity (is currently a Themes course).</p> <p>-Log 9049: Course change – PHI 230, American Philosophy [new to GEC, submitted 9/14/2015] To count for Cultures: US Diversity.</p>	<p>them how many prerequisites they can code. Director stated that we may be able to code it with 5 or so course prerequisites and then the rest would have to be by permit or he could drop the research method requirement. Member stated we should add STA 215 AND STA 216 OR Upper Level Research Methods OR Permission. Chair stated that CCC said to drop all the requirements and just add STA 215 and STA 216 or Upper Level Research Methods. Members asked if the Junior prerequisites was the only prerequisites an Issues course could have. Chair and Director stated it can have more but Director stated it should cause concern because it could limit enrollment. Member asked if we can say the prerequisites are recommended and not required. Banner can have a description that gives students what is recommended in order to take the course. Member stated concern for limiting the course to only a select group of students but that we shouldn't ask for a change in the prerequisites because CCC already approved them. Director stated that if we can name courses in the prerequisites then the students don't have to request permission of the instructor. Another member stated that some students may see the list of prerequisites and shy away from taking the course if they don't have any of those listed, even if it says "or permission of the instructor." Member asked if any of the other Issues courses have permission of the instructor as a pre-req. (The answer is Yes.) Director stated that we don't want to have instructors having to sign off on 30+ students wanting to take the course. Director stated that we can go back to author and ask him if he can change the design of the course to forego one of the prerequisites or we can honor what he has. Member questioned if there is a huge difference in learning between STA 215 and STA 216? Chair stated that yes; it is different than STA 215 as it builds on 215 and introduces many new concepts. Member asked if the enrollment was high when this was offered as a 380 course. If it was, then we don't really need to worry about the number of prerequisites. Director asked if we want to have them hardwire in the specific prerequisite courses and do we feel there is enough diversity in students taking this course. Member stated that it should say STA 216 or an equivalent research method as STA 215 is required for the research methods courses. Member stated that this class is unique and different and would be a nice addition to the General Education Program. Member expressed concern about setting a precedent of accepting courses that are too restrictive. Member stated that the title alone will self-select students. If they know nothing about statistics then they are not going to look into taking the course. Member stated that the yes box was checked for additional resources but nothing was listed. Director stated the Chair should talk to the author about the prerequisites and then next week we can review the entire proposal. Director informed committee that records said there is no limit on the number of prerequisites we just need to keep in mind how it looks to students.</p>	

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	<p><b>PHI 343</b>  Member asked about the prerequisites stated that it says Junior standing and prior course work in philosophy or permission of instructor. Based on that wording, a student may think they can ask the instructor for permission to enroll as a Sophomore. Director stated that we need to ask for a comma after Junior standing and before the other prerequisites so there is no question. Member stated that the assessment for Integration (2<sup>nd</sup> objective) is confusing and is essentially stating that this goal cannot be assessed. Member stated there is no mention of teaching in the content goals. Chair stated we need to ask for more information as to what the instructor will do for teaching content goals. Also, we need to have clarity on how integration will be assessed. The chair pointed out that the proposal currently has text responses for assessment, but most likely will be replaced by the new drop-down menu items once we ask for an amendment. Therefore, we cannot ask for an elaboration of goal assessment. We can only ask them to elaborate on teaching, and pick the assessment items that apply. Chair will ask for more on what the instructor will do for content goals. Under integration, we will ask the proposer to specify the “different disciplines” and tie it into the SoR readings as it was unclear to the committee. Integration 2<sup>nd</sup> objective needs to have an assessment piece, and add a comma to help clarify the prereq in the new course form. Member stated that under Collaboration it mentions a self-evaluation. This should be listed in the SoR.</p> <p><b>PHI 230</b>  The director pointed out that this PHI course is being proposed for US Diversity, but would certainly fulfill Philosophy and Literature too. The course could, and perhaps should, be a double dipper. Member indicated that the Philosophy department is scared to offer more P&amp;L courses because enrollment could blow up as it does in PHI 101 and 102 requiring more sections and they do not have the faculty. Director indicated that it wouldn’t necessarily create more demand but rather just shift the students to another course. Chair asked how they could add another category. Director stated they just have to open another course change and then click another box and fill in the General Education form. It will not go back to CCC, but we should have the chair and dean approve via email. Members like the proposal and said it was very clear. One member had stated via email that there isn’t enough detail about the assessments, but it wasn’t clear if this member was aware of the new drop-down menu items for assessments, which provide no opportunity for explanation. Member also indicated concern about how written communication is being taught. A member stated that we have never asked others to provide the handout they are using to teach Written Communication, nor is a required re-write of a paper something we insist upon. The Syllabus of Record does not indicate when in the 14 week semester Written Communication will be taught, but we don’t usually require this. The committee agreed that if the proposer decides to add the Philosophy and Literature category, we will reconsider the proposal, but in the meantime, we</p>	<p>P. Thorpe moved to ask for an amendment per the discussion. M. Velez Ortiz second. Motion carries 14-0. Amendment will come back to the committee.</p> <p>P. Thorpe moved to approve the proposal as it is (US Diversity only). M. Velez Ortiz second. Motion carries 14-0.</p>

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	should vote on the proposal as it stands. NOTE: The chair will wait to hear back from the proposer about possibly adding Philosophy and Literature before hitting the “Approve” button, since that will preclude the proposer from making that change.	
<b>CAR Reviews -AHS 340</b>	AHS 340 – Tabled to next meeting.	
<b>Assessment – discussion of adding IL and/or OC as a 3<sup>rd</sup> option for some categories</b>	Tabled to next meeting.	
<b>Chair’s Report</b>	CLAS election is coming up in order to get another representative.	
<b>Director’s Report</b>	Faculty is concerned about the General Education assessments. We have to move courses to another semester/year or cut sections to accommodate staffing. Most departments do not want adjuncts or new faculty to do the assessments. Director hosted assessment workshops for faculty. Lots of people attended and good feedback was received. Will host more sessions in October.	
<b>Adjournment</b>		4:29pm