Grand Valley State University

***General Education Committee Meeting***

3015 James H. Zumberge Hall

Minutes of 10/20/2014

**PRESENT**: Kirk Anderson, Chair; Ella Fritzemeier; Emily Frigo; Andrew Kalafut; Sarah King; Brian Kipp; Jose Lara; Josita Maouene; Linda Pickett; Martina Reinhold; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey

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

**NOT PRESENT:** Gabriele Gottlieb; Melba Hoffer; Haiying Kong; Paola Leon; Paul Sicilian

| Agenda Items | Discussion | Member |
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| **Approval of Agenda** |  | Approved per consensus |
| **Approval of 10/13/2014 minutes** |  | Approved per consensus |
| **Curriculum items for consideration** | None. |  |
| **Discussion of the World Perspectives component in light of the Internationalization Task Force (IZN TF) report with guest Mark Schaub (and possibly Carol Sanchez), co-chairs, IZN TF and Global GV team** | The Internationalization Task Force (IZN TF) had surveyed faculty, staff and students to find out what we need at GVSU in order to be considered a global institution. As one of the IZN TF’s recommendations, the GEC was asked to revisit the World Perspectives category to re-evaluate our objectives, as that had not been done for 13 years. It was also recommended that all majors provide a global context (intercultural learning) in their programs. The IZN TF initiative was started because many students can’t articulate how their major studies apply in a global sense.  Since the GEC was not entirely clear on what was being asked of us, the chair invited IZN TF co-chair Mark Schaub to visit and provide clarification. Mark recommended that we lead the discussion.  We want to be using the latest lingo. Should we change “Cultures” to “Global Learning”? Will that confuse people? It would get us up to date with the current terminology. Mark said it is up to us if we want to make that change.  Internationalization refers to the international elements in a course. It is not the same thing as “global learning”, which is covered by our combination of U.S. Diversity and World Perspectives. Global learning can be either knowledge-or skills-based. Our GE goals are based on the AAC&U’s definition of global learning, and our overall objective - to provide students with intercultural knowledge and competence – is compatible with their definition.    The IZN TF Recommendation Report included a 5-point scale for ranking levels of internationalization of university courses. One GEC member had checked our World Perspectives (WP) courses being taught to see what levels they reached. He found that 79% of the courses ranked a 4, and 97% of courses ranked at least a 3, so it is apparent that our WP courses are successful in providing students with intercultural learning. Mark agreed with our assessment. He doesn’t advocate making major changes. In his view, our program was well conceived, as we had already recognized the need to provide this training and have incorporated it into our GE course goals. We also promote and encourage Study Abroad, offering Issues credit for courses taken in other countries.  Having Cultures courses double-dip was discussed, and determined not to be a problem, as all applicable skills goals are required to be met in double-dip courses.  The chair compared our list of knowledge and skills goals to the objectives in the IZN TF report. The IZN TF has more objectives than we do, so he wanted to make sure we are not missing anything. We concluded that we cover the most important goals, especially in our Content goals in each category, and we do not want to load our instructors down with too many goals to assess.  Since we have reviewed our WP requirement as requested, Mark said if we are comfortable with what we are doing and do not feel the need to make changes, that’s fine. We have looked at what the IZN TF has laid out and confirmed that we are doing what they ask. We are satisfied with what we have.  Mark asked the committee if there was any way the IZN TF can help with what we are trying to do, and encouraged members to let him know if they thought of anything.  The IZN TF will now check with CLAS to make sure they are integrating global learning into their curricula. This is already being done in the engineering and nursing programs.  Items for the GEC to consider:   * One member pointed out that students can be exposed to intercultural information, but they will still need to learn appropriate ways to approach intercultural relationships, taking into account specific cultural communication issues. * Should we ask faculty to state explicitly in their course proposals and SoRs what they are doing in their classes to provide intercultural training, and make it clear to their students that this is a specific goal? * Should we ask unit heads to rank their WP courses on the 1-5 scale and let us know what level they would assign to the courses? We would not be asking for proof, just their opinion. Departments have already been asked by their deans to do a version of this, and we don’t want to give them too many more things to do, though it would only take a few minutes. We already have our assessments and are satisfied with them, and we suspect their rankings would tend to be higher than ours since they know what is actually being taught, so is their input really needed here? * Do we need to change SoRs to reflect what we’re doing? Global learning has long been taught, but is it officially acknowledged and known by students that this is what is happening? |  |
| **CAR reviews**   * **Time for groups to discuss their assigned CARs among themselves** * **Reports/committee discussion as necessary** | Time was given for group members to discuss their CARs and draft response letters to submit to the chair.  **CLA 275**  **DAN 200**  **PHI 102**  **ENG 203**  **PHI 103**  CAR is incomplete, cannot be reviewed yet.  **HNR 312**    Next week, we will cover more CARs. If reviewers are comfortable with their CARs they can just send a letter to the chair. If any are problematic and need to be discussed by the committee, reviewers should notify the chair of that. |  |
| **Chair’s Report** | None |  |
| **Director’s Report** | None |  |
| **Adjournment** |  | 4:29 pm |