Grand Valley State University

*General Education Committee*

Minutes of 10-22-12

**PRESENT::** Roger Gilles, Chair, Kirk Anderson, Peter Anderson, Karen Burritt, Alisha Davis, Emily Frigo, Gabriele Gottlieb, Gary Greer, Brian Kipp, Jagadeesh Nandigam, Keith Rhodes, Paul Sicilian

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sarah Kozminski, General Education Office Coordinator; Edward Baum, Jeff Chamberlain, Jane Toot, and Jonathan White from the Honors College

**ABSENT:** Susan Carson, C. “Griff” Griffin, General Education Director, and Jeffrey Pelc

| Agenda Items | Discussion | Member |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Approval of** October 8 **Minutes** |  | Approved |
| **Approval of Agenda** |  | Approved |
| **Honors College** | Visiting from the Honors College: Jeff Chamberlain (Director), Jane Toot, Ed Baum, and Jonathan White, Representatives from the Honors College attended the meeting to make sure we are all on the same page with regards to the Issues goals. HC was created with the same intended goals as the GE program. The director stated that in the HC all GE requirements are met but packaged differently. Recently, the HC created a task force and held retreats to meet the current Issues courses requirements. By 2014 they will have all junior seminars feature team-based problem solving and integration. The director presented a document outlining their plans.  Questions arose as to what would/could be done with transfer students. Their current thought would be to require 2 junior seminars or have the student study abroad.  GE Chair spoke of students who withdrawal from the HC, These students would be required to fulfill the issues courses (as well as the GE requirements that they did not fulfill).  HC member reaffirmed their desire to support the GE program and emphasized that the GE program is the foundation of a liberal education.  GEC member stated there was a discussion regarding sequencing the courses (i.e. learning and then implementing). HC director discussed the Scholars Institute, which all Honors students participate in prior to school starting. He discussed the process in the HC where there is learning and then implementing.  HC faculty discussed the importance of High Impact Experiences and felt that students should engage in these as soon as possible in their college career.  GEC Chair stated a concern about the assessment piece. HC member stated that they are currently doing course assessments but do not have the results. HC is looking at habits and approaches to learning. Currently entering freshmen are asked to submit their best writing piece. This is the gauge to which each year they are able to see the growth both in writing and as a student in each progressing year.  GEC member asked if every student would have integration included in their senior projects. HC director stated that there will be integration included in their junior seminar. There is no guarantee that there will be more than one instance of integration exposure in the HC.  GEC Chair stated that the committee would discuss the proposal from Honors and would respond directly to the HC. The HC is open to continuing the discussion. |  |
| **Committee Discussion regarding Honors College** | GEC member wondered why the HC was allowed to just create an alternative GE program. Another member stated that in the past the Honors courses were reviewed by GEC, but that the relationship has become more distant. Still, the general agreement that HC works as an alternative to GE is longstanding.    A member questioned the statement that they would “grapple with at least two of the issues.” How would this be done? Perhaps we could tell them that they only need one, since that is all we are requiring in GE.  Chair referred to an email in which the GE director expressed concern about HC’s ability to meet the two-course Issues requirement. A member wondered if there could be assessments as to how the integration portion is being met.  Chair asked if the HC memo should be endorsed or if there should be changes for clarification.  A member felt that integration should be included for assessment purposes. Also, HC should remove the % of the students that study abroad from the memo.  Chair will draft a response and send via email for the GEC to read and approve. Then we will send on the HC. Once we receive the amended memo it will be submitted for approval to GEC. |  |
| **Course Reviews for Issues** | 18 courses have been formally approved by the GEC.  PHI 300 will be on the agenda for next week to review by the full committee  LIB 335: amendments were requested earlier by GEC. Additional amendments were discussed, and it was agreed to send the proposal back once more before final review.  WGS 370: Chair was unsure as to whether or not comments from GEC were received by proposer. Apparently not, so Chair has sent the comments out. We will review later.  Next week: PHI 300 and two additional courses that were submitted. |  |
| **Director’s Report** |  |  |
| **Adjournment** |  | Meeting adjourned at 4:05 |