Grand Valley State University

*NOTES: General Education Committee*

Minutes of 2/24/2014

**PRESENT**: Kirk Anderson; Karen Burritt; Susan Carson; Emily Frigo; Roger Gilles; Melba Hoffer; Jose Lara; Paola Leon; Jagadeesh Nandigam; Alex Nikitin; Laudo Ogura; Martina Reinhold; Keith Rhodes, Chair; Scott St. Louis; David Vessey

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

**NOT PRESENT:** Gary Greer\*; Brian Kipp

**ON SABBATICAL**: Paul Sicilian

\* Participating in all work despite conflict with meetings

| Agenda Items | Discussion | Member |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Approval of current Agenda** |  | Approved per consensus |
| **Approval of Minutes from 2/17/2014** |  | Approved per consensus |
| **Small group meetings to review CARs and finish draft responses** | Members spent the first hour and fifteen minutes meeting in smaller groups to review CARs and prepare responses. |  |
| **Discussing CAR responses with particular issues** | **MUS 129 –** Discussion of collaboration responses led to ideas for improving our information on collaboration and suggesting some expansion of collaborative work in future courses.  **CJ325 –** This thorough response led to suggested improvements. The Collaboration rubric may need revision to clarify differences in levels of achievement. We need to continue to urge that our 1-4 points system applies to students across all grade levels, and that scores of “4” for lower-level students should seem unusual. We hope to clarify in the future what we’ve meant from the start: our rubrics apply to career-long general education objectives; course rubrics may differ substantially as to the same skills. Teachers need to be aware of our rubrics, and we like the idea of telling students about our goals and our rubrics; but instructors should feel free to inform students about skills in ways that they believe to be in the best interests of students in their classes. |  |
| **Curriculum items for consideration (if possible on brief discussion)** | **8508: Change Course - NRM 140**  **New Foundations (Physical Science lab) proposal**  This course is being brought back in after a one-year absence, during which the course was changed to meet goals. The course is a pure general education course, pitched toward goals, rather than a program major course. It is needed because the chemistry and biology courses didn’t “backfill” enough. One member expressed reservations, stating that it was well written except for the oral communication portion. Statements were copied and pasted from the rubrics, #3 was not covered, and content and organization were not mentioned. Otherwise it is good. It is better than most foundation CAPs, and it isn’t an Issues class, where we want to make sure teachers are effectively teaching skills that are essential to the very idea of the course.  Do we want to discuss this further, or pass it? - We wanted to make this available, but would have delayed it if more discussion were needed. The decision was made to pass it rather than further delay it.  **8389: New Course - CIS 310**  **Returning Issues (II&T) proposal**  Should we pass this right away or wait? - Our main impression from the first version was that it appeared too hard for an Issues course, it was not accessible to enough people, and the prerequisite was insufficient. Changes were made, improving the language so it now tells how the course can be applicable to different professions. The rewording of integration was good, and changes were made to the initial goals. Now it sounds more like a Gen Ed class. The mathematical sciences prerequisite was removed. One member was uncomfortable with that, because as he noted, it was the one course we thought was insufficient to begin with.  A Foundations class is an acceptable prerequisite – not common but not unusual. It was decided to send this back with the request to add a prerequisite and suggest different options for doing that, and return it to the Chair.  The members agreed. The Chair asked that members send him the CARs that were reviewed in the meeting. | S. Carson moved to approve, R. Gilles second, K. Anderson abstained. Motion carried 14-0 with one abstention.  K. Burritt moved to amend, to be returned to Chair alone for approval, J. Nandigam second, motion carried 15 -0. |
| **Chair’s Report** | waived |  |
| **Director’s Report** | waived |  |
| **Adjournment** |  | 4:30 pm |