

Grand Valley State University
General Education Committee Meeting

167 Lake Ontario Hall
 Minutes of 12/07/2015

PRESENT: Kirk Anderson, Chair; Hsiao-Ping Chen; Emily Frigo; Haiying Kong; Paola Leon; Kimberly McKee; Melba Velez Ortiz; LeShell Palmer; Huihui Qi; Eric Ramsson; Jeremy Robinson; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey

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

NOT PRESENT: Gabriele Gottlieb; Linda Pickett; Paul Sicilian*; Jeremy Turnbull;

*Participating via email despite conflict with meetings

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
Approval of current Agenda	No discussion.	Approved per consensus
Approval of 11/30/2015 Minutes	No discussion.	Approved per consensus
Visit from Christine Rener from FTLC – Teaching GE skills in large classes	<p>Christine asked members what they thought a large class size was. Members varied greatly in their answers. She also asked some of the concerns with large classes. Members stated: assessment, physical environment, types of assignments, personal attention to students, and teaching specific skills such as oral and written communications.</p> <p>The main points of the presentation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Course design needs to account for large class size (backward course design) --Consult the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning literature --Different learning experiences can replace existing approaches --Course management best practices and pragmatic considerations <p>Member asked if there is a difference between assessing for General Education goals vs. assessing for just course material. He stated that there are different ways to teach things if there wasn't the assessment piece.</p>	

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
	<p>Chair asked if we should have Christine add “how to teach Gen Ed skills to large classes” to the promotional materials for upcoming skills workshops she is conducting. Member suggested it be added to Sprout so people can see it there. Gen Ed office will update the Gen Ed website.</p>	
<p>CAR Reply Letters – Vote to approve</p>	<p>Member asked why some of the letters didn’t follow the format discussed. Chair stated that some of the CARs needed a more direct approach in telling them how they did so they can improve in the future. Member thanked the chair for putting all of the replies together. Some instructors chose not to share the rubrics with the students ahead of time but gave good explanations on why they didn’t, so the “stock” language wasn’t used for these replies. Member asked if we can revise the question 6 on the CAR that asks if they shared the rubrics with the students. Members suggested changing the first day letters to add to the information regarding sharing the rubric with students so that instructors know the expectation but can tailor it to their needs. We will work on revisions for the CAR at the first meeting of next semester.</p>	<p>P. Thorpe moved to approve CAR reply letters. S. Strouse 2nd. Motion carries 13-0. Letters will be sent out to assessors and unit heads shortly.</p>
<p>Log 9207: New Course – GSI 201, Introduction to Global Studies [returning proposal, resubmitted 12/2/2015] Still a double dipper: To count for Foundations - Social and Behavioral Sciences, and to count for Cultures</p>	<p>The proposer switched the goal from Collaboration to Oral Communication based on the committee recommendation. Added an in class rehearsal of students presentations. They fixed up their proposal to focus more on SBS rather than humanities. They did not address the concern that it may not be taught by someone in SBS. Member believes that someone without an SBS background will be teaching it. Director stated that Area Studies has a lot SBS faculty and they should be able to get someone to teach it with the appropriate background. Member asked what the next step is. Member asked how we ensure that the person teaching the course is certified to teach the class. Director stated that it is not about whether the instructor has the expertise but rather if they have the expertise to teach from the chosen framework. Director stated that some fields can be taught from an SBS side or a humanities side. Member stated that the only problem then is ensuring that someone from SBS is teaching it. Member stated that Global Studies crosses all areas of humanities and social sciences. Member asked if this newer field should be left for Issues since SBS is not flexible for this type of interdisciplinary course. Director believes we should change SBS to SBS/Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS). We could have students take two SBS or 1 SBS and 1 IDS. This would open up courses from Area Studies, the new Human Rights minor, WGS, Environmental</p>	<p>M. Velez Ortiz moved to approve with the 5 noted amendments. P. Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 13-0.</p>

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
<p>– World Perspectives. Now the skills are CCT, PS and OC. Recall that you can view the amendment we requested on 11/24 as well as a “snapshot” of the old proposal on the main page for this proposal.</p>	<p>Sciences and other IDS courses. Many other colleges already have IDS courses built into their Gen Ed program. Member stated that he would like to make sure that we state that someone from SBS MUST be teaching this course.</p> <p>Should we ask for the first line under topics be taken out since it is an SBS course? Member suggests we approve it with the recommendation that someone from SBS staffs it. Member also suggested taking out staffing information in the SoR. Also, add “taught from SBS perspective” in the description. In the overlap question in the new course proposal they need to remove “humanities”. Member suggested taking out the whole sentence and not just the word.</p> <p>ADD to new course proposal on the bottom where it asks about expertise: Regardless of home unit, faculty need to teach a significant portion of the course with a social and behavioral science perspective.</p> <p>Summary of requested amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strike 1st sentence under Topics in SoR because it is a statement about staffing • Add “from a social and behavioral science perspective” to the 2nd line under Topics in SoR • Strike the sentence with the word “humanities” from the question about overlap with other courses in the NCP • Add the above sentence about teaching a significant portion of the course from a social and behavioral science perspective to the last part of the NCP • Add the phrase “primarily from the perspective of the social and behavioral sciences” to the catalog description 	
Rubric Revisions	Tabled until next meeting	
Midyear Report	Will work with the Gen Ed office to finish it up. If you have suggestions/revisions please let Kirk know.	
Chair’s Report	Will finish rubric revisions next semester.	
Director’s Report	FTLC is doing workshops during exam week on teaching skills goals. Also, doing a workshop on Intercultural Competence. The Gen Ed office sent that information to all faculty teaching World Perspective and US Diversity courses.	
Adjournment		4:31pm