

General Education Committee Meeting

303C DeVos

Minutes of 4/14/2025

PRESENT: Hsiao-Ping Chen; Kathryn Christopher; Phyllis Curtiss; Dori Danko; Brian Drake; Firas Hindeleh; Dennis Malaret; Rajvardhan Patil; Chad Sutcliffe; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey, Chair

ALSO PRESENT: C. "Griff" Griffin, Director, General Education; Sean Lancaster, AVP of Academic Affairs; Jennifer Cathey, General Education Office Coordinator; Samantha Minnis, University Libraries

NOT PRESENT: Beomkyu Choi; Maya Hobscheid; Janet Winter

Consent Agenda

- Approval of today's agenda
- Approval of minutes 4/7/25

Chair's Report – Welcome to our new member, Samantha Minnis from the Library.

Director's Report – Transfer courses are first approved by the relevant academic department and then submitted to General Education (GE) for final approval. Once approved, a course remains valid unless the corresponding course at the originating institution changes. For students studying abroad, departmental approval is required for the courses they plan to take. To streamline this process, the Padnos International Center (PIC) is developing a database of pre-approved study abroad courses with direct Grand Valley (GV) equivalencies. This will reduce the need for students to seek approval from departments each time. GE is scheduled to meet with PIC tomorrow to discuss this initiative further.

The Digital Literacy Committee wants to ensure that all students have baseline digital skills before they start at GVSU. They will be developing baseline skill expectations, including working with FTLC to break down levels of Digital Literacy. The committee would also like to know how we can incorporate Digital Literacy into GE.

Provost's Office Report – Dr. Jen Drake has officially been named Provost, removing the "Acting" title from her role. Provost Drake will be hosting a series of conversations with faculty and staff. All are encouraged to attend these sessions to ask questions and hear more about her vision for the university. Associate Vice President Lancaster expressed appreciation to all General Education Committee (GEC) members for their service and active participation in shared governance.

New Business

- Review Skills sections of the Equity Gap Report
Members reviewed the Skills section of the Equity Gap Report to see how students are performing by demographic categories.
Action Taken: P. Thorpe moved to accept the Equity Gap Report. K. Christopher 2nd. Motion carries 10-0.
- End of Year Report
Chair updated the End of Year Report with business from today. Members reviewed the report.
Action Taken: P. Thorpe moved to approve the report. D. Danko 2nd. Motion carries 10-0.
- Vote for 2025-2026 GEC Chair

Chair called for nominations for Chair for next year. D. Malaret nominated D. Vessey.

Action Taken: D. Malaret moved to elect D. Vessey as Chair of GEC for 2025-2026. D. Danko 2nd. Written votes were cast, and the motion carries 11-0.

Curriculum

- EGR 280: Human-Centered Engineering Design – Special Topics for SBS and US Diversity
Action Taken: P. Thorpe moved to approve. P. Curtiss 2nd. Motion carries 9-0-1.

Adjournment – 3:51 p.m.