

Grand Valley State University
General Education Committee Meeting

167 Lake Ontario Hall
 Minutes of 8/29/2016

PRESENT: Kirk Anderson, Chair; Hsiao-Ping Chen; Dori Danko; Haiying Kong; Kimberly McKee; Melba Velez Ortiz; Linda Pickett; Eric Ramsson; Jeremy Robinson; Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey
ALSO PRESENT: Scott Berlin, Interim Director, General Education; Jennifer Cathey, General Education Office Coordinator; Maria Cimitile, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
NOT PRESENT: Gabriele Gottlieb; Karen Lewis; Huihui Qi; Robin Smith-Colton

| Agenda Items | Discussion | Action Taken |
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| Approval of current Agenda | No discussion. | Approved per consensus |
| Approval of 4/18/2016 Minutes | No discussion. | Approved per consensus |
| Introductions | All members introduced themselves. | |
| UAS Charges to GEC for 2016-2017 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggest additional Professional Development workshops that FTLC or others might host for teaching General Education Skills. Kurt Ellenberger, Faculty Fellow in FTLC, will be contacting all Issues instructors about a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for teaching Issues courses with the opportunity for funding to attend a conference. The FLC will incorporate collaborative problem solving assignments and pedagogies for Gen Ed Issues courses. 2. Continue to monitor and improve the General Education assessment process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement the new rubrics for the assessment of General Education courses. b. Include an analysis of the GEP Report in the GEC's EOY report. GE will implement the new Student Learning Outcome rubrics. Griff put together a summary of all assessment data from the first cycle of assessments over the summer. Chair will present to the committee and discuss how we can best share the information with the campus. 3. Continue to support the development of additional Issues courses by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encouraging the creation of new courses; | |

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| | <p>b. Investigating obstacles to transitioning Themes courses; c. Exploring ways to connect to the Design Thinking Initiative.</p> <p>Member asked if we have enough Issues courses created to accommodate the declining Themes courses. Maria shared that we are low on seats in Issues courses. There had to be more seats added for this year by adding additional sections of already existing Issues courses. Maria suggested sending a survey to those departments that have not converted their Themes to Issues to find out why and encourage them to do so. CLAS added 6-10 additional sections of Issues courses. Chair asked if the “fast-track” plan this past year worked for faculty. All curriculum committee chairs were asked to put Issues courses at the top of their review list. GEC needs to help departments see the value of adding GE courses. It was suggested that we ask the departments that are losing enrollments.</p> <p>Chair asked if all Issues courses need to be addressing a global pressing issues of our time. Member stated that pressing issues change so quickly that it is hard to know. Another member stated that some pressing issues have remained the same for a long time and we should be more expansive of our offerings. Maria stated that the Issues categories were purposely left very broad to accommodate a variety of courses.</p> <p>FTLC has a group that is active with Design Thinking. They are developing a certificate program. It is hard to create a course on Design Thinking because it is a pedagogy. The need is for instructors to teach using Design Thinking in their content area. Design Thinking is integrative which can be hard to fit into the current structure of GE. Member stated that we can integrate Design Thinking in to our Problem Solving goal.</p> <p>4. Meet with Career Services to explore ways to better incorporate practical skills into the GE curriculum.</p> <p>Chair stated that he will contact Career Services to find out what we can do. Members feel that all GE goals are practical already. Member stated that we could create IDS courses related to practical skills such as financial responsibility. Member stated that GE is supposed to be a well-rounded education but when you add in practical skills it becomes more of vocational education instead a well-rounded liberal education. Member suggested that we add a question to the CAR related to how they incorporate practical skills. Member asked that the chair request clarification on this charge so we have a better understanding of what they are looking for.</p> <p>5. Review GE Foundations categories, and make recommendations for changes if/as warranted. Include thorough justifications for any proposed changes.</p> | |

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| | <p>This charge came about due to GE talking about adding an interdisciplinary category.</p> <p>6. In an effort to engage more faculty in our shared governance system, prepare a mid-year progress report at the end of the Fall semester to be posted on the GEC website and disseminated to ECS/UAS and College Deans. (A full report is expected as usual at the end of the year.)</p> <p>Chair will complete this again like last year.</p> | |
| <p>Curriculum items for consideration</p> <p>--Log 9499: Course change – HIM 310, Functional and Administrative Practices in Health Information Management [returning proposal, resubmitted 4/20/2016] To count for Issues: Health.</p> <p>--Log 9491: New course – ENG 388, Emigration & Immigration in Contemporary World Literature [new to GEC, submitted 7/7/2016] To</p> | <p>HIM 310 Resubmitted proposal did not adequately address concerns raised in April. Decision was made to deny the proposal. Interim Director plans to contact proposer to discuss next steps.</p> <p>ENG 388 Proposal was good but a little light on what the instructor would do but strong on what the students will do. Member asked about the GE course form because they listed presentation-individual twice, once under Integration and once under Problem Solving but it is not in the SoR but the group presentation is. These concerns were agreed to be minor.</p> | <p>S. Strouse moved to reject the proposal. M. Velez Ortiz 2nd. Motion carries 12-0.</p> <p>K. McKee moved to approve. P. Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 12-0.</p> |

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| count for Issues: Identity. | | |
| Chair's Report | Asked new members if they had any questions. Invited current members to give advice to new members. | |
| Director's Report | Assessment directions are currently being sent out to faculty. Many assessors are confused with the new rubrics only having three levels but being able to give 0-4. Director and Chair will revise the directions to make them more clear. There are seven assessment workshops scheduled for September/October. Kurt Ellenberger is contacting all Issues instructors to form a group of about 10 on teaching issues courses. Director will talk with Kurt about how we can help all Issues instructors instead of just the 10 in this group. Chair asked about offering brown bag drop-in workshops on helping with teaching Issues courses. | |
| Adjournment | | 4:15 pm |