

General Education Committee Meeting

303C DeVos

Minutes of 2/9/2026

PRESENT: Beomkyu Choi; Kathryn Christopher; Dori Danko; Brian Drake; Firas Hindeleh; Dennis Malaret; Rajvardhan Patil; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey, Chair; Janet Winter

ALSO PRESENT: C. "Griff" Griffin, Director, General Education; Felix Ngassa, AVP of Academic Affairs; Jennifer Cathey, General Education Office Assistant

NOT PRESENT: David Alvarez (class conflict); Phyllis Curtiss

Consent Agenda

- Approval of today's agenda
- Approval of minutes 1/26/26

Chair's Report – None.

Director's Report – Choose-Your-Own-Skill Analysis: The committee previously allowed courses to change their General Education skills (unless they were in the issues category). Numbers were compared before and after implementing "choose your own skill." Results showed very little difference in student skill coverage. Only about half a dozen choose-your-own-skill requests have been seen in meetings, so it hasn't significantly impacted overall numbers

Current Skill Coverage:

Oral communication remains the lowest at 78%. Skills in the issues category are 100% (since students must take issues courses). Written communication and information literacy are theoretically at 100% due to the Writing 150 requirement but can be slightly lower when students transfer courses in or use CLEP/AP credits.

Conclusion:

No changes are needed as the numbers are relatively stable.

It will take time for faculty to realize they can change skills, as unit heads (who receive the information) aren't typically the ones doing the assessment.

Provost Office Report – "Nuts and Bolts of Curriculum" session scheduled for next week via Zoom, covering curriculum processes for various committees.

New Business

- Review and Discuss CARs
Members discussed CARs previously on Warning.
- Experiential Learning as a Substitute for Issues
Students have been able to use study abroad as an alternative way to achieve the Issues requirement for years. This was approved because the Padnos International Center demonstrated that students achieve collaboration, problem solving, and integration through study abroad, and faculty at other universities cannot be required to teach specific skills.

A new proposal to allow students in majors where 6 credits or more of Experiential Learning may be eligible for this alternative way to achieve Issues credit. If GEC approves this, it will go live for Fall 2026. Units have to fill out an application and have it approved by GEC.

Action Taken: P. Thorpe moved to approve the Experiential Learning Policy. K. Christopher 2nd. Motion carries 10-0.

Action Taken: P. Thorpe moved to approve Engineering's request to use Experiential Learning to fulfill Issues requirements. Brian Drake 2nd. Motion carries 10-0.

- Possible Places to Add DL to Rubrics
GEC will look at the current Skills rubrics to see how we could incorporate Digital Literacy.

Adjournment – 4:08 p.m.