

Council on General Education Minutes
September 1, 2015
Stevenson Hall Room 140
10:00 a.m.

Attending: Brian Aitken, Alan Bates, Anthony Crubaugh, James Cunningham, Katherine Ellison, Claire Lieberman, Janeen Mollenhauer, Sally Parry, Terry Plickebaum, John Poole, Jonathan Rosenthal

Guests: Cooper Cutting, Professor, Psychology
Derek Hermann, Coordinator of Academic Services, University Assessment Office

Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Introductions and Election of Chair

Members of the Council introduced themselves.

Rosenthal nominated John Poole to serve as Chair of the Council on General Education for the 2015-2016 year.

Poole was unanimously selected to serve as Chair.

Updates

- **Enrollment** – A record number of students went through Preview. The number of First Time in College (FTIC) students is 3,588, one less than last year. Rosenthal thanked school directors and department chairs for allocating seats for this large incoming class and noted that spring will be interesting with the new student information system. Aitkin noted that numbers were almost spot-on in creating General Education seats for incoming students.
- **AP Legislation** - Beginning in Fall 2016 students who score a 3 or above on the Advanced Placement Exam will receive credit. This will likely decrease the number of seats needed in certain areas such as English, psychology, politics, and economics. English will be the most impacted and this may create work in balancing the Spring and Fall semesters with English 101 and Communication 110. Parry suggested adding more 121s to keep these students in small classes.
- **WAC and AMALI (learning outcomes)** - Rosenthal continues to work on moving Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) and Asia, The Middle East, Africa, Latin American and the Indigenous People of the World (AMALI) forward. Last year faculty forums were held and feedback was solicited. He is moving through the Senate-approved process. The next step for WAC is to complete a survey of faculty. This is unlikely to be controversial. More controversial will be any change to the AMALI requirement. Work is being done to set up learning outcomes for AMALI to see how courses are connected.

IAP review process changes – Derek Hermann

Hermann distributed a handout titled General Education Program Assessment (see attached). He reviewed the process of collecting syllabi and course assignments and discussed the adapted AAC&U rubrics that are used for assessment. The first year was focused on the United States Traditions general education courses. There were some issues getting faculty together for several days to review syllabi and assignments. In the future faculty will be asked to attend an introductory session and then artifacts will be provided on-line for review.

Discussion about how best to recruit faculty to submit artifacts and participate in reviews ensued. Rosenthal is concerned about the low level of participation and realizes that there may need to be a strategy change. He is committed to having individuals who teach the courses also be the ones who complete the artifact review. Poole asked about the relationship between Faculty Panels and assessment. The faculty panels were started with disciplinary experts to look at what is and isn't meaningful with the hope that faculty panels would be champions of General Education. Ellison wondered if the lack of participation was related to NTTs and GAs teaching many of the General Education Courses.

It was suggested that perhaps looking at Department or School Curriculum Committees may be able to work with the assessment of Gen Ed courses. Crubaugh noted that the faculty panels were interdisciplinary.

Poole asked why assessments were not done annually. Hermann noted that this would be difficult given the current time and resource commitments. Lieberman noted that it may be that faculty and administration are already over extended.

European Students Major and Minor

Crubaugh discussed the proposed addition of the European Studies major and minor. This will need to go through the curricular process and be approved by IBHE. Two courses proposed were given new numbers and names, but they have already been taught on campus. History will administer the programs as they have administrative capacity. There are ten departments that will offer courses with most of those in the humanities.

The next Council on General Education meeting will be held on September 15, 2015 at 10 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Scott