***General Education Committee Meeting***

***Minutes 9-11-2023***

***Members in Attendance***: Brittany Lockard-Chair, Brett Bruner, Samantha Corcoran, Gina Crabtree, Natalie Delacruz, Kimberly Engber, Sally Fiscus, Linnea Glenmaye, Julie Henderson, Josh Mallard -Student Rep, Matt Muether, Angie Paul, Carolyn Shaw, Sandy Sipes, Jan Wolcutt

Absent: None

***WELCOME*:** Brittany Lockhard

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 8-28 MEETING*:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Approved: 10-0

***CHANGE IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP***

The current composition of the committee, according to Senate by-laws, is 13 members: 9 Faculty, one chosen from each of the Senate divisions, 1 Basic Skills faculty representative from Math, English, or Communication, 1 Student, the Registrar or designee (ex officio, non-voting), and the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs or designee (ex officio, non-voting). The committee proposed making Honors and FYS reps as ex-officio non-voting members. This proposal was approved and will be brought before Faculty Senate today.

***COURSE PROPOSALS***

**HIST 547: Law and Modern American Civil Rights**

* In some cases, and the Department of History is one case, 500-level courses do not build on each other. No prior knowledge of or familiarity with the material is necessary. Is it helpful? Yes, but these courses pull a wide range of students from across the university, mostly LAS, and levels of students within History. The only restriction is the restriction against first-year students who cannot enroll without the professor's permission.
* Speaking to this breadth of students, this course is one of several legal history courses I offer and that I advertise to non-History majors, such as Political Science and Philosophy majors who have an interest in attending law school or a public administration or public policy masters' program. Additionally, I advertise these courses more formally with the Pre-Law Society, the Legal Education Accelerated Degree (LEAD) program, the Law and Public Policy Track in the Honors College, and can be used as an Exploration course in the Department of Women's, Ethnicity, and Intersectional Studies (WEIS) revamped major and minor.
* My proposed course HIST 547: Modern American Civil Rights fits not only the definition of general education but can be taken by students at different degree levels and fulfill several educational needs outside of the traditional major/minor.
* The CIM form says no restrictions, but new/first year students require permission to enter, since Banner automatically restricts freshmen from 500-level courses. The Registrar can manually remove this restriction from a course.
* It was moved and seconded to approve the Gen Ed attribution, with the stipulation that the chair will contact the faculty member to see if she agrees to manually removing the restriction for first year students**. Approved: 10-4-0.**
* Note: The Registrar’s Office will be reviewing the policy that allows individual departments to remove the restriction against freshmen taking 500-level courses.

**FYMG 102A: First-Year Seminar: Dare to Care: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Issues for Frontline Workers**

* The committee asked for a revised, consistent syllabus, especially the number of outside events required. However, the revised syllabus has not been uploaded.
* The instructor will be asked to contact Sally Fiscus to upload the revised syllabus.
* **Tabled: 10-4-0.**

**EDUC 102: Leadership and the Bible**

* The Gen Ed outcomes are not tied to the assessments in the syllabus, although they are listed in the CIM form. From references within the syllabus, it looks like pages are missing which would have contained the outcomes tied to assessments. All syllabi must have outcomes tied to assessments, but faculty often do not include Gen Ed outcomes
* This course is offered by Applied Studies, but they are asking it to count under Humanities. This is fine under the current Gen Ed program, but may not be under the new Regents’ GEP, which seems to require that only departments within the area can offer Gen Ed courses. This course might be better as a FYS, which does not have the same restrictions. The chair will make the faculty member aware of this.
* This issue of not having outcomes tied to assessments comes up frequently. Carolyn Shaw will take a stab at updating the template syllabus so that faculty know their proposal will be tabled if the syllabi does not contain General Education outcomes tied to assessments. It was suggested that Carolyn review the FYS syllabus template, so the requirements are consistent, but without stipulations tied to FYS.
* It was moved and seconded to ask for the complete syllabus that has outcomes tied to assignments.
* **Tabled: 10-4-0.**

***REVIEW AND REVISION OF CHAIR’S LETTER TO FACULTY SENATE EXCEUTIVE COMMITTEE***

* The letter lays out the issues arising from the new KBOR GEP that goes into effect in Fall 2024. The current goals are quite broad, and the varied colleges and schools across campus approach their general education courses using different philosophies. Some programs confine their gen ed attributes to lower-level courses, while others attribute gen ed credit to courses all the way up to advanced, 500-level courses (as was common under the previous Issues & Perspectives and Further Studies model). The result was that most WSU courses that asked for a Gen Ed attribute got it. However, the new program is not as broad, and the intent is to make transfers seamless by concentrating the requirements in the first 2 years. The letter suggests that the criteria for evaluating Gen Ed courses be re-evaluated.
* It was moved and seconded that the letter should be forwarded to Executive Committee. **Approved: 9-4-1**

***AS MAY ARISE***

* Dr. Shaw proposes a potential return to in-person meetings to allow for better discussion. Last year, the committee offered the option to attend in person or use Zoom, and everyone chose Zoom for a variety of reasons. Some members can’t attend in person, and others cited the ability to look at different documents other than the one being displayed at the time. Others liked the convenience of Zoom. Last year, smaller subcommittees met to hammer out policies to present to the whole group.
* Perhaps for policy changes, the committee might want to meet in person.  It was suggested that if there is a meeting devoted to a policy issue (without issues that require looking at a lot of different documents), the committee could meet in person.

***NEXT MEETING***

* The next meeting will be on 9/25/23 on Zoom and includes visitors from LAS and OneStop advising for updates on gen ed advising issues.
* <https://wichitastate.zoom.us/j/97234369983?pwd=ejZTNndxeTBGclI4SlJrZjRjUzlTZz09>

***ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting ended at 1:30 pm.