***General Education Committee Meeting***

***Minutes 11-11-2024***

* ***Members in Attendance***: Samantha Corcoran, George Dehner, Natalie Delacruz, Sally Fiscus, Gina Crabtree, Linnea Glenmaye, Julie Henderson, Brittany Lockard (Chair), Josh Mallard (Student Rep), Angie Paul, Carolyn Shaw, Sandy Sipesand Jan Wolcutt

***Absent:*** Brett Bruner

***HIST 599 AM THE HISTORY OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH***

* This course is an experimental course at the junior/senior level. The Gen Ed committee denied the request last month because the undergraduate learning outcomes were not strong or clearly linked to the assessments for the course, and because the course numbering does not align with KBOR’s new system. KBOR states that Gen ED courses are meant to be lower-level courses which could be completed in the student’s first two years of study, and which could be offered at a two-year institution. The committee also noted the syllabus does not have the Gen Ed learning outcomes or separate requirements for graduate students.
* Dr. George Dehner noted that he served on the Gen Ed committee in the past and served on the working committee to revise the Gen Ed program, so he is familiar with the requirements. He thanked to the committee for the opportunity to discuss the committee’s decision to deny Gen Ed attributes to the HIST 599AM course.
* Dr. Dehner does not feel that it is relevant the course does not follow KBOR guidelines because the elements of the Gen Ed program are the right and responsibility of the faculty, not KBOR. He stated that Gen Ed. is a skills-based program in which the goal is to get the students to work on the skills that the faculty have sought to develop in students. These skills are not dependent on the class standing of the student. There are already 500 level history courses with Gen Ed attributes. History courses have always emphasized the goals of thinking critically and independently and "writing and speaking effectively;" two of the four expected outcomes from the Gen Ed program. History classes above 200 were in the GEP before the previous GEP which required 300 level classes. The history department did not want a lower course number because it did not not want to restrict students from taking 500 level classes.
* He will make the changes to the syllabus but does not feel the lack of separate requirements for grad students is pertinent to the decision to grant the Gen Ed attribute.
* The committee was concerned about duplication with public health courses, but Dr. Dehner checked with the history department, who agreed it was a course that WSU should have, and with public health, which said it did not overlap with any of their courses but could not count in their program.
* The syllabus does not follow the university template. Dr. Dehner does not see a need to comply because his syllabus is compatible with screen readers as it is only text with a single hot link—to the university descriptors of services.
* The committee discussed whether experimental courses should be allowed to be Gen Ed Why start as an experimental course? Dr. Dehner said it was always done that way in the history department, but it does not need to be experimental. The course would have been changed when it went into the catalog. In general, experimental courses are not approved as Gen Ed. The Registrar noted that the course would go through the workflow easier if it had a non-experimental number. Dr. Dehner is willing to change to any number as long as it is 500 level, because the material can be understood by freshmen through seniors. It is designated 500 so graduate students can take it.
* HLC accreditation is coming up, so syllabi should adhere to template
* There are procedural issues with this course:

1. The course did not go through department approval or LAS college approval. The LAS curriculum will tell him to use the standard template.
2. Gen Ed should be offered every semester, especially if the courses are required for certificates and minors
3. Freshmen can’t take 500 level classes due to restrictions built into the system.

* It is possible that the history department wanted to offer the course but feared it could not attract enough students if it was only offered at the undergraduate level. Offering the course at the 500 level permits undergrads and grad students to take it.
* Sandy will give George specific information about changing the syllabus.
* The committee was concerned about rubberstamping any course that has critical thinking and reading and writing skills as Gen Ed courses. Since all college courses should teach these skills, what exactly constitutes a Gen Ed course?
* It was moved and seconded to table the proposal. Motion passes 8-0-1.

Carolyn Shaw noted that she had offered a proposal in Faculty Senate to mandate that items currently required to be in the syllabus should all be in one place on a web page, with the link to the web page being provided on the syllabus. The proposal is that every syllabus include this link and that ONLY the unique course materials go in the full syllabus: <https://www.wichita.edu/faculty/development/syllabuspolicies.php> General Counsel says some policies/resources are so important that they must be on the syllabus.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

* It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 10-28-24 meeting. Approved 7-0.

***COURSE PROPOSAL REVIEW***

* + - Reminder: Committee members can preview proposals by going to MyWSU🡪 Faculty/Staff🡪 Courseleaf (CAT and CIM), right side of page🡪 Courseleaf Approval Page. Once there, at the top, choose “General Education Committee Chair” as your role to see a list of pending courses.

The committee reviewed the following courses:

* + - ***PHS 512: Aging Across Cultures:*** This proposal has syllabus that will open, so it will be sent back.
* ***SOC 303: Sociology of Mental Health:*** This syllabus has all the required items, but in different order. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. Motion passes 9-0.
* ***SOC 304: Sociology of Violence:*** It was moved and seconded to approve the request. Motion passes 9-0
* ***SOC 397: Social Epidemiology:*** It was moved and seconded to approve the request. Motion passes. 9-0

***AS MAY ARISE***

* The committee requested a list of all Gen Ed courses with the last time they were offered***.*** This is already available in the TEAMS folder from last year.The Registrar typically asks department to get rid of courses that have not been offered in the last 5 years.
* Linnea provided these links:
* [***https://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/***](https://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/)
* WSU\_Master\_GE\_Course\_List\_Revised\_2-26-2024.pdf

***NEXT MEETING:***

* The next meeting will November 25.
* There will be a voluntary meeting Monday, Dec. 2

***ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting ended at 2:04 pm.