

MINUTES
General Education Committee
December 3, 2019
2:00-3:30pm
VL 216

Members present: Steve Contakes (Chair and Professor of Chemistry), Paul Delaney (Professor of English), Michelle Hardley (Secretary and Registrar), Michelle Hughes (Professor of Education), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Information Literacy Librarian),

Absent: Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness),

I. Prayer – Steve Contakes

II. Meeting Minutes - The minutes from December 3, 2019 were approved.

III. HIS-181 History of the Modern Middle East - Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Historically

This course was discussed related to the proposed GE credit. The professor needs to include the language of the GE category in the syllabus and be clear how the course meets the Thinking Historically and Thinking Globally GE criteria.

The syllabus includes information indicating that the course is WSI but the course has not been approved for this category. The professor either needs to remove the language from the syllabus or submit a proposal for WSI credit.

The committee would like to see these changes in the syllabus prior to approval.

IV. IS-12X Reconciliation in South Africa – Add to Common Inquiries: Thinking Globally

The committee discussed the proposal related to the proposed GE credit.

The committee recommended approval for the course to be offered on a future Mayterm semester.

V. Steve's Conversation with Mark and Gregg on the PEA Requirement

Steve continued his conversation with Gregg on reducing the number of required PEA courses and allowing athletes to use their varsity sport multiple times towards the GE requirement. Gregg's most recent feeling is that the department could be willing to reduce the PEA requirement from 4 to 3 required PEA courses. He also indicated that further discussion would be needed before there was a consensus on how to possibly move forward on these two issues. They will continue their discussions and bring their recommendations back to the GE Committee.

VI. Review/Discuss Completed? RIL GE Compliance Syllabus Audit

The committee suggested some language changes to the GE Reading Imaginative Literature Syllabus Review document.

VII. First Year Experience Proposal

The committee continued discussion on how to better prepare incoming students to engage academically through dedicated first year GE courses. They saw prior discussions on clustered courses as being feasible for 2-4 classes, but not for all incoming students. The committee went back to the central originating issue to see if additional solutions could be imagined.

The underlying issue continues to be the strength of the high-impact teaching practices and the desire to see these open to all students (not just the Augustinians) to aid in their academic success. So where would the greatest gains be realized? Smaller class sizes? Cohort model? Other ideas?

With the development of the Center for Student Success there may be additional partnerships to facilitate any solution we can envision. Do we connect with Stu and Eileen to see if this is something we want to move forward with? Do they want to partner with us on the development of these options? Are there initiatives that they are undertaking that could blend with (or that would conflict with) the ideas coming from the GE Committee? Is the GE Committee the best place to be discussing this issue, or should this be taken up and folded into the work of those in the Center for Student Success?

VIII. Proposal to Revise the Serving Society/Enacting Justice Area Around the Theme of High Impact Practices

The GE Committee began discussions on how we could revise the Serving Society/Enacting Justice GE area. Angela D'Amour has been asked by Senate to begin work on revising the language and focus of this GE category this year. We should invite her to a future meeting to see where the status is of her work and let her know that the GE Committee wants to be involved as it progresses.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley