

MINUTES

General Education Council,
3:30 December 1, 2011, Grove Hall 201

- I. Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Hamblin at 3:32 pm in GH 201. Attendance at the meeting included: C. Sipes, L. Cella, J. Edwards, D. Godshalk, W. Kingsley, A. Morana, M. Lucia, B. Finucane, A. Feeney, C. Botteron, C. Bertram, D. Cornelius, E. Nollenberger, A. Predecki, D. Girard, J. Hamblin, W. Crawley, J. Benton, R. Setaputra, S. Morrisette, S. Paulson, J. Clements, M. Paxton, K. Johnson, S. Harrow, J. Mike, J. Kooti, N. Cyr, M. Schultz, and K. Moll.
- II. Dr. Morrisette motioned, seconded by S. Paulson, to approve the November 3, 2011 minutes. It was noted that D. Johnson was changed to K. Johnson. It passed unanimously.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Dr. Hamblin reported to Forum after last month's discussion on the expedited proposal. At that meeting, Dr. Hamblin reported on the timeline of the proposal, and he tried to emphasize that GEC has some concerns regarding online general education courses. Chair of Forum, Dr. Burg said their next meeting was to assign a task force specifically dealing with online courses. The expedited proposal from the November meeting was sent to the President and approved. The report to Forum also noted that part of problem is based upon the scheduling issue with the first Tuesday and Thursday of the month. Dr. Hamblin also described an additional UCC proposal that may be tangentially related to general education that deals with students who want to replace a grade from the new math 140 A with their previous 120 course grade that no longer exists. The course has similar content area so students who want to re-take the course to replace a grade can do so in the new curriculum. Currently the math department has approved it.
- IV. Dr. Botteron reported that UCC will meet next Tuesday and thus there is nothing to discuss beyond what J. Hamblin already reported.
- V. Report from Standing Committees
 - a. The Assessment Committee has met twice and Dudley Girard was elected chair. Most of their discussions pertained to standardize testing. One method, VSA, is a measurement for assessing student learning using many social, economic, and experiential aspects. Other options were discussed which would automate the process and thus not put additional work on departments. The committee also considered standardized tests as a tool for assessing general education needs and a tool to find deficiencies in the program. The committee wants a tool to address issues, not develop a "teach to the test" mentality. The test for freshman would be administered in the fall in several of the primary skills courses, generating a good pool of student

responses. Acquiring test results from seniors is more challenging, yet could be accomplished by possibly administering the tests through departments that run capstone courses.

- b. The Budget Committee met and Jen Clements was elected chair but today's report was giving by S. Morrisette. Most of the meeting's basic discussion revolved around broadening the scope of the GEC Grant program funds, using them wisely, such as student contest and bringing speakers to campus, and how to advertise for these funds. The Committee contacted the previous budget chair, A. Predecki, who provided valuable past practices and experiences. They had proposed a deadline of February 3, 2012.
 - i. A discussion arose as to the timeliness of the proposal deadline and that it may be tough for faculty to plan courses and incorporate into syllabi if the deadline is not prior to the start of the semester. The committee had discussed pros and cons of the timeline and did not want to chance losing the funds if left unspent. It was suggested that the committee be forward thinking and discuss with the Provost sooner, rather than later, about the following academic year and thus allowing faculty to plan in the summer. In the past not all the funds were spent and thus many felt a rolling call for proposals would allow faculty to develop quality ideas. K. Moll made the motion, seconded by D. Cornelius, for the committee to utilize the old GECC criteria for evaluating grants with a rolling deadline. L. Cella motioned, seconded by S. Harrow, to amend the motion by allowing previously funded proposals the opportunity to re-apply with preference given to new proposals. The motion and the amendment passed unanimously. The committee will meet again next week and formalize dates.
- c. The Program Committee met as well, and Allison Predecki volunteered to be the chair. Their first meeting focused on policy and timelines:
 - i. The program committee made a motion for a policy regarding expedited proposals. The policy proposed that if UCC met before GEC then the UCC representative will notify the Program Chair of an expedited proposal, who will notify members of the GEC-program committee via email. The members will have a set timeline to express concerns and make recommendation to UCC. Some concern was raised about this motion, particularly if the proposal was controversial or if a discrepancy amongst the members of the program committee arose. It was clarified that GEC is only a recommending body and any individual can report to UCC. K. Moll made a motion, seconded by W. Kingsley, that an amendment be made to the motion that the program chair notify the entire GEC members of the proposal and the timeline, thus allowing all members to have an opinion. Both the amendment and the motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Report from past GECC chair (Dr. Crawley)-the report was made available in digital and print form, and he is available for future questions.

- iii. The program committee wanted to revise the Gen Ed reform timeline- which requires a longer discussion and a retreat, planned for Friday February 10, 2012. The reform needs to look at different models and curriculums with ideals, goals, and associated objectives.

VI. New Business-

- a. Timing of election of officers-currently GEC members are elected by departments in the fall and attend an early fall meeting to elect the officers. However, the faculty co-chair gets release time and thus elections should be determined in advance for scheduling purposes. Such a change needed to be made by an amendment to the bylaws. E. Nollenberger motioned, seconded by S. Paulson, to elect members in the spring and vote in May. This was approved unanimously.
 - b. It was discussed if alternates can serve as officers, which followed on a discussion from last month's meeting on if alternates can serve on sub-committees. Currently they can, and thus an amendment to the bylaws would have to be made if GEC decided otherwise. D. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by M. Lucia to form a sub-committee to consider the issue of alternates serving as officers. The motion was supported unanimously.
 - c. The website has been updated with links to general education courses, membership, committees, and bylaws. A suggestion was to make another link to old bylaws and call for grant proposals.
- VII. Motion to adjourn was made by J. Clements and seconded by C. Botteron and passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:33

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison E. Feeney