MINUTES

General Education Council, 3:30 April, 2013, Grove Hall 201

- I. Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Hamblin at 3:34 pm in GH 201. Attendance at the meeting included: M. Moilanen, D. Godshalk, W. Kingsley, A. Morana, M. Lucia, B. Finucane, S. Drzyzga, A. Feeney, C. Botteron, C. Bertram, A. Seibert, E. Nollenberger, C. Zaleski, D. Girard, J. Hamblin, L. Bryant, A. Cresswell, J. Catanio, R. Setaputra, S. Morrisette, S. Paulson, S. Bergsten, J. Pitts, J. Mike, and K. Moll.
- II. Dr. Paulson motioned, seconded by Dr. Godshalk, to approve the March 7, 2013minutes. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Report from UCC-Dr. Paulson said that the history courses that GEC recommended last month were approved. UCC will meet one more time this semester on April 30th.
- IV. Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. Budget-Dr. Bertram reported that one last grant proposal was submitted and approved. For the first time ever the entire budget (all but \$246.60) was spent to support General Education grants. More people are aware of GEC grants and interest in them is expected to grow. The committee made a motion to approve to send the Provost a written request for next year's funding along with a request for funds to support faculty engaged in developing, reforming, or assessing general education. A discussion arose regarding future funding requests. Dean Mike suggested that a segmented budget to support a team of several faculty members to attend a conference adds credibility. If administrators were supporting their own involvement, approximately \$5000 per event would be reasonable, depending on the number of faculty members attending. Dr. Godshalk made a motion, seconded by Dr. Morrisette, to amend the motion reflecting the dollar amounts discussed and to forward the request. Both the amendment and motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Program-Dr. Drzyzga reported that the committee had met and decided that future meetings this year will be entirely devoted to discussing general education reform. The committee made a motion to accept the memo that was introduced at the March meeting. The memo outlines guidelines for 190 proposals, and ensures all the appropriate parties including faculty, department chairs, and the registrar's office are aware of the time line and review process. It was discussed whether there should be a limit on the number of 190 courses, but many felt that these were good courses allowing flexibility into the general education curriculum. All were in favor of the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - c. Assessment-Dr. Girard reported the committee had a draft for an assessment plan that would be sent to departments, hoping it would be discussed at this month's department meetings and returned to Dr. Girard by the end of April. Summary of the feedback will be discussed in a year-end meeting and the committee will report on their findings at the first fall GEC meeting. The actual deadline for submitting assessment data is October 2014 so that will give departments plenty of time. There was no discussion and all were in favor of the motion.

- d. Ad-Hoc Capstone- Dr. Bryant reported that UCC and GEC have noted that the oversight of capstone courses extends beyond the sole purview of GEC. Representatives of the two bodies made a joint request to the Provost to establish a body to study high impact practices relating to the capstone experience. The role of GEC will be to identify capstone experiences and oversee their assessment. Thus it makes sense to suspend this committee and incorporate it into the assessment committee.
- e. Ad-Hoc Entry Year Experience-Dr. Moll reported that the committee did not meet this month but will meet before the end of semester.
- V. Dr. Hamblin reported on a UCC discussion, questioning if course changes that become part of the general education curriculum can be applied retroactively. The current practice is that students follow the catalog from the point of entry to the university and they cannot pick and choose their selection of revisions to the catalog. Thus it is not the current practice to allow students to receive general education credit for courses that were added to the general education curriculum after they completed the course. We cannot assume that a course had the same learning objectives before it was added to the curriculum and thus past courses may not have fallen into specific categories before they were officially incorporated into the curriculum. A motion was made by Dr. Godshalk, seconded by Dr. Bryant, to affirm the current policy and not retroactively count new courses that have been accepted into the program. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- VI. The program committee made a motion to accept the Biology Department's proposals UCC #12-115-1 and UCC #12-116-1. The objectives and goals were met, and it was noted that these courses have been a problem for transfer students and thus this will be a positive change for everyone. All were in favor and the motion passed. The committee also met to discuss UCC#12-126 but decided not to recommend it. It was agreed that a new general education program is needed but it should be part of the university-wide change rather than piecemealed by each department. Several other departments have similar issues, and many of the problems stem from PDE's requirements. It needs to be clear to all departments that as programs are revised, if courses count toward the general education requirement, they cannot be double-counted as part of the major's requirement. Departments must ensure that their programs meet the minimum number of credits required for majors. The motion was to not recommend UCC#12-126 to UCC. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- VII. Elections of 2013-2014 officers. Dr. Hamblin noted that those completing their term were dismissed. Technically elections are run by the APSCUF rep but she was not in attendance. Since Dr. Hamblin was stepping down he was willing to run the elections. He opened the floor for nominations. Dr. Godshalk was nominated as faculty co-chair of GEC and he accepted. Dr. Drzyzga was nominated but he declined. Dr. Kingsley motioned, seconded by Dr. B. Finucane, to close the nominations. Dr. Godshalk then took over and opened the nominations for secretary. Dr. Hamblin nominated Dr. Feeney, who accepted. Dr. Moll motioned, seconded by Dr. Hamblin, to close the nominations. All were in favor. Dr. Hamblin nominated Dr. Botteron for UCC representative and she accepted. Dr. Kingsley motioned, seconded by Dr. Paulson to close the nominations. All were in favor.

- VIII. Status of Ad-Hoc committees-Dr. Hamblin motioned, seconded by Dr. Paulson, to suspend the Ad-Hoc Capstone committee. All were in favor and motion passed. Sign-up sheets were available to sign up for next year's subcommittees.
- IX. Everyone gave a generous appreciation for Dr. Hamblin's work and dedication over the past two years serving as faculty co-chair.
- X. Dr. Godshalk adjourned the meeting at 4:27 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison E. Feeney