General Education Council

2022 – 2023 Academic Year

Agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, August 30th, 2022, in DHC 151 at 3:30 P.M.

Zoom for those in quarantine: <https://ship.zoom.us/my/gochenaur>

1. Dr. Lesman called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM. Attendance at the meeting included: S. Benbow, S. Bergsten, L. Brown, M. Bibby, Allison Carey, M. Cohen, S. Cornell, B. Culbertson, S. Drzyzga, D. Girard, D. Gochenaur, M. Hartman, T. Hawkins, W. Kubasko, R. Lesman, Y. Liu, J. Lohrey, M. McNelis, K. Moll, E. Pitingolo, D. Predecki, F. Qin, J. Sanders, J. Smith, B. Ulrich, A. Vassallo, K. Weikel, W. Whiteley, D. Wildermuth, J. Windholz

2. Review and approve the minutes of the previous council meeting – Attachment A1, A2

SMITH motioned that the March 22, 2022 minutes be approved. LOHREY seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to approve the 3/22/2022 minutes. **APPROVED**

PREDECKI motioned that the April 28, 2022 minutes be approved. ULRICH seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to approve the 4/28/2022 minutes. **APPROVED**

3. Opening Remarks – Dr. Lesman shared that Dr. Gochenaur was out sick and he would facilitate the meeting. He thanked council members for their service. Dr. Brown welcomed everyone to the new semester and expressed that the semester was off to a positive start.

4. Old Business

a. Reports from our Standing Committees

i. Budget (Dr. Drzyzga 2021-22) – The GE grants process is moving online. The new committee chair will manage the transition to the new process. There are applications for Dr. Cella and Dr. Pierce awaiting committee review that the first meeting.

ii. Assessment (Dr. Weikel)

1. 122/164 (74%) Fall 2021 course reports submitted.

2. The committee is collecting Spring 2022 course reports.

30 collected so far.

3. Once-per-year course reporting starts this academic year.

iii. GEC/UCC Liaison (Dr. Lesman)

1. Minutes attached – 8/19/2022

2. Handbook revisions – Dr. Lesman shared revisions are continuing the and an updated draft will be ready for committee vote in October. Dr. Cornell stated that UCC is also working through policy revisions with a goal that GEC is looped into conversations regarding course proposals of any type that impact the General Education Program.

3. Impacts of proposed moratoria THE and IPA – A robust discussion occurred re: the impact of the proposed moratoria for THE and IPA. Several items of concern emerged. 1)The lack of student interest in THE and IPA courses did not appear to be accurate. Courses offerings were impacted by staffing issues and retirements. 2)Questions emerged about whether there are enough courses in the Creativity tag to balance the loss of THE and IPA courses. 3)Other programs such as English, Art, and Global Languages are already understaffed and cannot take the weight of 55 students who can no longer take THE or IPA courses. 4)The decision to place THE and IPA in moratoria is not official and determined by administration. 5)Administration has not provided a solution to the problem created by the moratoria and placed the labor challenges with the faculty, which is not appropriate. 6)A question emerged about whether the moratoria are long term (5 years as is typical) or a one semester decision. 7)Finally, committee members voiced questions about data on retention, graduation rates and recruitment for students engaged in THE and IPA programming. Dr. Lesman thanked the committee for the discussion and noted that no decisions were made but concerns were documented for public record.

iv. Program Committee (Dr. Lesman)

1. Minutes attached – 8/19/2022

2. Directed GenEd: MIS 300 – Dr. Lesman shared that Program Committee recommended approval for MIS 300. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to approve MIS 300. **APPROVED**

3. New Minor: Information Systems & Analytics – Dr. Lesman stated that Program Committee recommended approval for MIS 300. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Motion to approve Information Systems & Analytics. **APPROVED**

4. Program Revision updates

a. Chair Focus Groups

b. Faculty Focus Groups

v. First Year Experience (Dr. Bennett) – No update provided as chair was unable to attend.

b. GEC Antiracism Task Force (Dr. Moll) - Dr. Moll stated the committee is revising the description for DIV category with a written proposal coming to GEC in October. Dr. Gochenaur suggested that the Taskforce hold a town hall meeting with current courses for a robust discussion across the campus. It was recommended the timeline should align with the program revision timeline. Dr. Smith shared various levels of communication has started with a wide variety of stakeholders. Dr. Moll recruited for additional members who might be interested in this work.

5. New Business

a. Committee Assignments for AY 2022-2023 - Complete

b. N Tag Discussions – Dr. Carey expressed concerns that the natural world category conflates the sciences and invalidates social sciences. The natural world (N) category includes technology which is a hard science. Additionally, the category is overweighted. Dr. Carey asked that the committee consider the natural world be broadened. Several discussion points arose related to when and how communications about the category description originally occurred and how to gather feedback about the N category during this program assessment period including: 1) The potential impact of a shift in the category for programs across the college including teacher education, 2) Considering the learning objectives for the category as the factor for tagging courses versus the title of the category or learning objectives, 3) The number of science courses required for students in the GE program (ie. Might students elect to take a social science and not take Biology, Chemistry, etc.) 4) The influence Middle States and PASSHE has on GE requirements related to science and technology courses. 5) Can the questions about the natural world category be included in the focus groups as part of the GE program assessment plan? Dr. Lesman thanked the group for the preliminary conversation and shared that the program committee will discuss and craft a proposal for the full committee.

6. Announcements – No announcements

7. Call to adjourn. ULRICH motioned. BERGSTEN seconded. Meeting ended at 4:51 PM.

Minutes submitted by W. Kubasko