

General Education Council

2015-2016 Academic Year – Final meeting of the year

Minutes for the meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016, in ROWLAND HALL 200 at 3:30 P.M.

Members present: S. Drzyzga, M. Moilanen, S. Bergsten, A. Predecki, C. Sipes, D. Girard, D. Kalist, L. Cella, D. Birsch, M. Knight, J. Hamblin, M. Lucia, K. Shirk, C. Bertram, K. Lorenz, F. Liu, B. Wentz, M. Bratina, B. Meyer, B. Wallace, K. Moll, J. Fowler

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:36pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting
 - a. Attachment A: Minutes from the council's meeting on Mar. 24, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes (Fowler). Motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business
 - a. Attachment B: Letter to the Registrar RE: ENG190
 - b. Attachment C: Letter to the UCC RE: PSY101
 - c. Attachment D: GEC Grant Recommendation to the Provost
 - d. Attachment E: GEC Grant Recommendation to the Provost
 - e. Attachment F: GEC Grant Recommendation to the Provost

Dr. Drzyzga presented these memos related to business that was accomplished at the previous GEC meeting. Dr. Cella mentioned that she has received additional funds and has a signed contract from Sherman Alexie for his planned visit to SU. This event will be on September 27-28, 2016.

- f. Departments and programs with terms that expire in Spring 2016

APSCUF	Human Communication Studies
Chemistry	Modern Languages
Computer Science	Finance and Supply Chain Management
Geography / Earth Science	Teacher Education

Dr. Drzyzga has heard from FSCM and Teacher Ed that they have appointed representatives. At this meeting, representatives from Chemistry and HCS mentioned that their departments have also appointed representatives. APSCUF is working on it, and there is still no word from Modern Languages.

- g. Report from our GEC representative at the UCC (Dr. James Hamblin)

UCC Proposal 15-177 (PSY101) was approved by UCC.

Discussion on the PSY program revision slipping through the cracks: The suggestion was made for the GEC-UCC rep to be more “plugged in” to curriculum issues. Maybe create a one-page instruction for the new rep so that they understand it’s more than just showing up to UCC once a month? Curt Zaleski suggested that the new rep come to the next UCC meeting (April 26 at 3:30pm in LL 106).

Revision to Gen Ed 190 (selected topics) proposal is still working its way through the other councils and was not considered at this meeting.

There was discussion about implementing deadlines for course and program proposals by implementation date. These deadlines are already listed in the UCC as “suggestions,” and a revision to the UCC manual would be necessary to make these firm deadlines.

- h. Reports from our ad hoc Committee
 - i. Amendment Committee (Dr. James Hamblin)

With the approval of the proposed amendments at the previous GEC meeting, the Amendment Committee moves to dissolve itself. Motion approved unanimously.

- i. Reports from our Standing Committees
 - i. Budget (Dr. Ben Meyer)

The Budget Committee did not meet since the last GEC meeting. The Provost approved and funded all of the recommended grants.

- ii. First Year Experience (Dr. Allison Predecki)
 - 1. Attachment G: Proposed letter to the Provost requesting summer support

The FYE Committee did not meeting since the last GEC meeting. Dr. Cella, a member of this committee, presented a proposed letter to the Provost to request funding for a student worker to help brand the First-Year Experience and create brochures and other materials. Dr. Moll suggested working with Justin Sentz to incorporate the information into the Ship app.

Motion from the committee for GEC to approve and forward this letter to the Provost.

Discussion: Dr. Hamblin suggested touching base with Tracy Schoolcraft about possible integration of EYE materials with the new SSC Campus program that will be rolling out in the Fall. There was also suggestions about including more than just “brochures,” but also other online or infographic-style materials for students (since they don’t really use paper resources in the same way). Materials could also be made available during Admissions Open House for parents.

Motion to amend (Hamblin): To have Dr. Cella work with Dr. Drzyzga to draft a letter that incorporates the suggestions made here and send the letter on to the Provost.

Motion to amend passed.

Amended motion passed.

- iii. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)

1. Attachment H: Minutes from its meeting on Mar. 1, 2016
2. Attachment I: Minutes from its meeting on Mar. 22, 2016
3. Attachment J: UCC Proposal #15-297

PC is still working on reorganizing around the idea of 5 themes to make the value of Gen Ed clear within the program. Goals and rubrics have been rewritten several times, but they are getting close to a set of goals that connect closely to assessment rubrics. They are also working to make sure that existing courses fit well inside the new scheme.

Motion from the committee to recommend approval for UCC 15-297, a minor revision to CHM 121 – Chemical Bonding. The proposal is to add a prerequisite of a Chemistry placement exam for this course.

Dr. Drzyzga recommended that (pending approval of this motion) GEC expresses concern that UCC ensure that the Chemistry department work with the Registrar and/or Placement Office to help with logistical issues.

Motion passed.

iv. Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)

1. Attachment K: Minutes from its meeting on Mar. 18, 2016
2. Attachment L: Assessment of student learning in MAT211
3. Attachment M: Evaluation of Assessment of Student Learning in MAT211

The Assessment Committee met with the Math Department regarding math skills courses. The Math Department does not have a target number for how they expect students to score on assessment items. Other concerns are that the math skills objective contains multiple items and is therefore hard to measure.

The AC looked at the English assessment of WIFYS. English measures students according to various levels, but there is no indication about which levels indicate concern.

The AC also looked at History, who updated their courses and learning objectives recently. It is unclear that a department can actually change the learning objectives associated with a particular courses they can change the course-level objectives, but not the Gen Ed program-level objectives.

Dr. Girard noted that the math competency skills objectives are very generic, whereas the objectives for WIFYS and HIS 105/106 are much more directly tied to those courses. Also, the current form of the HIS 105/106 objectives require *both* courses rather than allowing each course to be assessed separately.

The AC will be meeting with HCS to discuss similar issues in the future.

4. New Business

- a. Close nominations for GEC faculty co-chair and GEC secretary, AY 2016-2017.

Dr. Drzyzga reminded the GEC that the UCC-GEC Representative must also be elected at this meeting. He opened the nominations for UCC-GEC rep.

Dr. Hamblin withdrew his nomination for Secretary and nominated himself for UCC-GEC rep.

Dr. Birsch moved to close the nominations for Faculty Co-Chair and UCC-GEC Representative. Motion passed.

b. Elections for GEC faculty co-chair and GEC secretary, AY 2016-2017

Since there was only one nomination for Faculty Co-Chair and UCC-GEC Representative, Dr. Drzyzga and Dr. Hamblin (respectively) were appointed to these positions for Academic Year 2016-17.

There were no nominations for Secretary, so Dr. Drzyzga will work with Dr. Mike to appoint someone for this role.

c. Volunteer sign-up sheets for the standing committees

5. Announcements

Dr. Birsch asked that the GEC thank Drs. Drzyzga and Hamblin for agreeing to serve in these important roles.

6. Call to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44pm.