

## MINUTES

General Education Council, 3:30 PM September 27, 2016, ELL 205

- I. Meeting was called to order by Dr. Scott Drzyzga at 3:35 pm in ELL 205. Attendance at the meeting included: J. Mike, S. Drzyzga, S. Bergsten, C. Sipes, D. Girard, D. Kalist, L. Cella, A. Feeney, D. Birsch, M. Ramsey, P. Taylor, R. Lesman, M. Hartman, K. Shirk, M. Greenberg, C. Bertram, K. Lorenz, A. James, B. Wentz, D. Hwang, N. Goates, B. Meyer, J. Clements, B. Ward, K. Johnson, K. Moll, S. Burg, and S. Stokely
- II. Dr. Drzyzga started with introductions followed by elections of two needed positions. A. James motioned, seconded by D. Birsch to elect A. Feeney as secretary, all were in favor. K. Moll volunteered to be UCC rep for this semester while J. Hamblin is on sabbatical. All were in favor of electing K. Moll as acting UCC rep. S. Drzyzga reviewed Robert's Rules of Order, stressing the importance of keeping meetings informal enough to allow everyone to discuss important items, that motions from the floor needed to be seconded, and motions from standing committees do not need to be seconded.
- III. Dr. Clements motioned, seconded by Dr. Ramsey, to approve the April 21, 2015 minutes. No corrections or objections were made and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Report from faculty co-chair. Dr. Drzyzga reported that Middle States has adopted a new accreditation program that will go into effect in 2017-2018 and will run on an 8-year cycle but will require departments to submit yearly reviews. Additionally, they have raised the bar on each standard and S. Drzyzga expects strong enforcement of those standards. Secondly, the PASSHE Board of Governors is reviewing the policy on general education. The BOG is considering replacing the content requirements and aligning with Middle State's competency requirements and imposing a new maximum number of credits. The BOG is also considering changes to its Academic Passport and Student Transfer Policy to streamline the process, especially for Veteran and non-traditional students. Thirdly, Dr. Drzyzga reported that two sister institutions shared information about their general education programs. East Stroudsburg reduced the credit requirements of their program (from 50 to 45 credits) and made additional room for a 3-credit required freshman course and a 3-credit wellness course. Kutztown reported that their general education program has too many leaning objectives and that they are unable to conflate fragmented departmental assessments into a meaningful program assessment.
- V. UCC report-Dr. Drzyzga went to their first meeting and reported there were no new proposals and very little had to do with GEC.
- VI. Reports from Standing Committees-
  - a. Assessment-Dr. Girard reported they met back in April to review the assessment. They had good discussions with the history department for both their 105 and 106 courses, and examined what exactly it means to be proficient in their skills. Additionally, standardize tests were given to freshman and seniors which they plan to continue doing in following years. Seniors scored higher than freshman but little else can be gleaned from the first year of data at this time. Dr. Burg thanked Dr. Girard for meeting with his department and found the discussions of assessment to be very beneficial.

- b. Budget-Dr. Meyer reported that last year the \$12,000 was spent on several grants. The Provost has provided equal funding again this year. Over the summer, Dr. Paris Peet submitted one grant that the committee will evaluate before the November 1 meeting.
  - c. First Year Experience-Dr. Cella reported that the committee had asked the Provost for money to support a student intern over the summer. The intern was tasked with creating marketing ideas for the first year experience. They created a writing lab pamphlet, a Facebook page, a logo, bookmarks, and brochure. The grant received by Dr. Cella was to support Sherman Alexie speaking on campus. He was scheduled to speak this fall but due to an illness the event is postponed until April, where he will speak at the Day of Human Understanding. Sherman Alexie's readings are being used by all first year writing courses along with many of his readings in upper-level writing courses. The event will hopefully demonstrate to students the benefit of their general education courses.
  - d. Program-Dr. Bergsten stated that the committee continues to work on reorganizing program goals based on themes rather than arbitrary letters that will align with the new Middle States standards. The committee needs to consider rubrics that can be used across the curriculum and by different departments. The committee will continue to work on this during the upcoming year.
- VII. New business- Dr. Drzyzga listed the members assigned to each of the standing committees and called on the chairs from last year to organize their first meeting and elect chairs for this upcoming year. He assigned each committee with a goal for the year. Dr. Stokely made note that as Dean of Academic Engagement and Student Support she has many students enrolled in general education courses yet have no representation on the program committee. The positions for the committee is laid out in the Bylaws, but anyone is invited to attend the meetings. Dr. Drzyzga reported that the English department submitted a 190 special topics proposal past the possible review date. It could not be reviewed before the Registrar's Office opened courses for enrollment, so the topic will not be offered this year, but can, upon approval, be offered next fall.
- VIII. Finally, Dr. Drzyzga reminded everyone that they are their department's representatives, so please inform them about the new Middle States accreditation cycle and assessment standards, and the possible changes to PASSHE policy. A unanimous decision was made to adjourn, and the meeting concluded at 4:37 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison E. Feeney