

MINUTES

General Education Council, 3:30 PM November 1, 2016, ELL 205

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Scott Drzyzga at 3:38 pm in ELL 205. Attendance at the meeting included: J. Mike, S. Drzyzga, M. Mollanen, S. Bergsten, T. Frielle, C. Sipes, D. Girard, D. Kalist, L. Cella, A. Feeney, D. Birsch, M. Ramsey, P. Taylor, M. Hartman, K. Shirk, M. Greenberg, C. Bertram, K. Lorenz, B. Wentz, D. Hwang, B. Meyer, J. Clements, K. Johnson, K. Moll, and S. Burg.
- II. Dr. Burg motioned, seconded by Dr. Moll, to approve September 27, 2016 minutes. No corrections or objections were made, and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Dr. Drzyzga reviewed the PASSHE Board of Governors' approved changes to the general education policy. Several attachments were provided and the committee focused discussion pertaining to several pertinent changes. The new policy will be effective fall 2018. It has an increased emphasis on competency and employable skills and the language aligns with the Middle States' standards for accreditation. The section under transfer now has explicit language that enables students to transfer general education credits from one PASSHE institution to another, and sounds like it is moving towards a system wide general education program. Another change is the new 48-credit cap on general education programs. Our current program ranges between 48-53, depending on 3 or 4 credit courses. Our program is too large. Dr. Lorenz called attention to that fact that the 1999 policy clearly mandates that the goal is to provide high quality education at a low cost, and it should be accessible to a wide range of people, but that it not included in the new policy. The last point discussed was the change in the policy that prohibits double counting of credits between major requirements and general education. This may affect many of the allied science requirements in different department's programs. Courses will count first towards general education, and then once that requirement is filled, additional courses can count towards a student's major. The policy does not mention minors or certification programs, only majors. Representatives, please take these new policy documents back to your departments, read carefully, and discuss with your departments.
- IV. UCC report-Dr. Moll attended the last UCC meeting and reported that they approved to the amended XXX-190 proposal. The ~~amended~~ amended proposal changed the language regarding the number of times a special topic could be repeated (from 3 to 4) to reflect current university policy governing all special topics courses.
Courses in exercise science were approved, and a new innovative idea of offering 3 1-credit courses over 3 years seems like an interesting alternative. Dr. Moll motioned, seconded by D. Cella that the program committee review the four classes, listed below. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

SPN 150: Spanish Civilization and Culture (Minor Course Revision)
SPN 15x: Latino Pop Culture (New Course)
SPN 15x: Latino Literature (New Course)
SPN 150: Spanish Civilization and Culture (DE Approval)

- a. Assessment-Dr. Girard reported that the committee met on October 6. They elected Dr. Girard as chair and Dr. Bertram as secretary. They are working on meeting with departments to gather assessment information for courses participating in the Category A curriculum. They want to align assessment, and they recognized the need for clear learning goals and a general rubric.
- b. Budget-Dr. Meyer reported that they met on October 6. They elected Dr. Meyer as chair and Dr. Taylor as secretary. They wanted advice from the GEC council on ways to promote the grant program, and asked if they should have Brian Johnson send an email to the entire faculty. They also discussed the idea if faculty not teaching general education could apply, if their proposal is open to all students. Most in the discussion felt that the grants should support the general education program and activities should be part of the curriculum. Finally, the budget committee motioned to support Dr. Peet's proposal for \$850 for two of his courses. All were in favor, the motion passed, and the proposal and the GEC's recommendation were forwarded to Provost Lyman.
- c. First Year Experience-Dr. Cella reported that the committee met on October 7 and elected her as chair for this semester. Dr. Ramsey will act as chair next semester when she goes on sabbatical. Dr. Berg provided some information from last year's committee. Additionally, Dr. Cella attended the program committee's meeting to discuss how the two committees can bridge their work. They will remain in communication as the program develops. Dr. Berg reiterated several points. They recognize that this project has been under development for a long time. They want to build on the previous work and recognize the difficulties encountered, enabling them to move forward. He also stressed that the movement should not just focus on a few courses, but rather a larger transformation of experiences that come from course work, residential life, the dining hall, and student activities. Assessment should not be restricted to what students learn in a course, because their experiences are not in isolation. Dr. Drzyzga mentioned that Bloomsburg has a fully integrated first year experience.
- d. Program-Dr. Bergsten reported the committee met on October 4. They elected Dr. Bergsten as chair and Dr. Lorenz as secretary. They spent most of the time going through the general education proposal reform. They want to look at the 5 themes: 1) foundations, 2) culture, reflection, and responsibility, 3) interconnections, 4) natural sciences and technology, and 5) creativity and expression. They need to tie goals and rubrics with themes and assessment. Their vision is to work on credits and objectives and they hope to get a full proposal to the GEC shortly.

V. Dr. Girard motioned, seconded by Dr. Birsch, to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 4:57 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison E. Feeney