

# General Education Council

2020-2021 Academic Year

## Agenda, for the meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 via Zoom at 3:30 P.M.

1. Call to order
2. Review and approve the minutes of the previous council meeting – See Attachment A
3. Remarks by Co-Chairs and General Education Liaison – Dr. Kirk Moll, Dean Jim Mike, Dr. Kate Shirk
4. Old Business/New Business
  - a. Reports from our Standing Committees
    - i. Program Committee – Dr. Sherri Bergsten/Dr. Shirk - See Attachment B
    - ii. Budget Committee – Dr. Sam Forlenza
    - iii. First Year Experience Committee – Dr. Steve Burg and Laurie Cella
    - iv. Assessment Committee – Dr. Dudley Girard – See Attachment
      1. Proposal to Suspend CLA+ Testing – See Attachment C
      2. Discussion Concerning General Education Assessment for Fall 2020
5. Announcements
6. Call to Adjournment

# Attachment A

## MINUTES

General Education Council, 3:30 pm, April 23, 2020, Zoom Conference Meeting (COVID-19)

- I. Dr. Moll called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm. Attendance at the meeting included: K. Moll, S. Bergsten, B. Culbertson, J. Carbo, D. Girard, , C. Sipes, B. Wentz, L. Cella., A. Vassallo, A. May, R. Lesman, S. Drzyzga, K. Shirk, B. Ulrich, J. Mike, K. Lorenz, W. Kubasko, M. Greenberg, D. Gochenaur, S. Haase, J. Clements, J. Smith, S. Burg, T. Gibbon, and T. Schoolcraft.
- II. Dr. Gochenaur motioned, seconded by Dr. Greenberg, to approve the revised March 24, 2020 minutes. All were in favor of the minutes and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Dr. Moll welcomed Dr. Schoolcraft to the meeting and specifically for the By-Law discussion. Dr. Moll shared a document with the GEC members via email as an update that there is a need for GEC to revisit the process for review of the GEC courses. This will be part of GEC work in the Fall 2020.
- IV. Old Business:
  1. Assessment Committee – Dr. Gochenaur shared that the committee did not meet because assessment was suspended.
  2. Budget Committee – Dr. Sipes shared that the committee met with Dr. Cella and Dr. Burg to discuss needs for UNIV101. There was discussion to separate funds into a fund for UNIV101 and funds for other programs. Equity is a main concern to ensure that programs and individual courses have a fair distribution of funds and opportunity. The committee discussed changes to the application, shifting the timeline, considering a focus on a specific theme, requiring the theme on the application, and adjusting the rubric. Additionally, the committee discussed how to negotiate better prices with the busing companies. Dr. Sipes shared that the adjustments are talking points at this stage. Dr. Carbo clarified that the adjustments to the application would not take place until at least Spring 2021.
  3. UCC Report – Dr. Drzyzga shared that UCC suspended 19A and 19B for Summer 2020 only. 19C was not suspended. Students cannot take more than two courses per summer term. 19A and 19B were suspended to support students in Summer Bridge or needing to retake courses.
  4. Program Committee – Dr. Bergsten shared that the committee received a rubric revision and a new course proposal.
    - I. HIS105 rubric revision: The student demonstrates knowledge and understanding of major historical themes or trends relating to the foundation of global cultures and religions. The program committee moves to approve the rubric revision. 23 yes, 1 no – The motion passes.
    - II. New course Proposal – EEC 273: Introduction to Exceptionalities - (Program Goal - Diversity) The program committee moves to approve the course. 23 yes, 1 abstention – The motion passes.
    - III. Dr. Bergsten shared that the Program Committee is recommending that calibration meetings begin in September.
  5. First Year Experience – Dr. Burg shared that admissions for returning and first time students are holding fairly steady given the COVID-19 crisis.
  6. By-Laws Revision Committee –

- I. General Education Liaison - Dr. Forlenza outlined the changes to the by-laws, including the new General Education Liaison (GEL) position as well as adding descriptions of the responsibilities of the other elected officers, faculty co-chair and secretary. Dr. Schoolcraft shared that University Assessment Committee chair should be coordinating with the Assessment Committee Chair. There was discussion about the future Dr. Forlenza shared that the By-Laws Committee did discuss whether the GEL and the Faculty Co-Chair position should be combined. The decision was to keep the positions separate, but this may be an issue GEC will wish to revisit.
  - II. Waivers and Exceptions Committee - Dr. Forlenza highlighted the changes to the By-Laws to add Waivers and Exceptions Committee. The language allows the General Education program to operate in the same ways that other programs at the university operate. Dr. Forlenza moved to approve the changes to the by-laws. Dr. Smith seconded. The election was conducted via Qualtrics. The final vote was 22 yes, and 1 abstention. The motion was passed.
- V. New Business
1. Election of Officers for 2020-2021
    - I. Dr. Bergsten nominated Dr. Moll and Dr. Gochenaur nominated herself for the Faculty Co-Chair position. 13 votes for Dr. Moll and 8 votes for Dr. Gochenaur. Dr. Moll was elected the General Education Committee Faculty Co-Chair.
    - II. Dr. Bergsten nominated Dr. Kubasko for the secretary position. The vote was unanimous. Dr. Kubasko was elected the General Education Committee Secretary.
    - III. GEL position passed according to the By-Laws vote. Dr. Bergsten nominated Dr. Shirk. Dr. Clements nominated Dr. Lesman. 15 for Dr. Shirk, 5 for Dr. Lesman, and 1 for Other. Dr. Shirk was elected General Education Liaison.
- VI. Announcements – Dr. Moll thanked everyone for staying the full length of the meeting.
- VII. The meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dr. Wendy Kubasko

## Attachment B

### GEC Program Committee April 2020 Minutes: Email Votes

Via email on April 8, 2020, ULRICH motion to approve the March 3, 2020 minutes with some additional detail mentioned by BERGSTEN two days previously. SHIRK seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, mostly during April 9, 2020.

ULRICH also motioned on April 8, 2020, that we postpone calibration meetings until the fall. SHIRK seconded, with the friendly amendment that these be completed by September 30, 2020. The motion as amended passed unanimously, mostly during April 9, 2020.

From April 17-19, 2020, the committee considered a proposal to begin offering EEC 273: Introduction to Exceptionalities as a general education course. CLEMENTS motion to recommend approval pending the additional of specific learning objective language, and WENTZ seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The committee received a syllabus with the requested language added on April 20, 2020.

## Proposal from the GEC Assessment Committee

That the CLA+ testing be suspended for two academic years, to restart fall 2022.

### **Rationale:**

The GEC Assessment committee proposes this action for the following reasons:

1. Budget – The university is under severe budget constraints and while the data is useful, a two year pause should not be an issue since we had planned to go to a once every two years model in the near future.
2. Usefulness of 2020 data - Fall 2020 Freshmen have not been in a standard school environment since March of 2020, making their data useless to compare with previous data. While the data would be interesting, it would not help identify issues with the General Education program under normal circumstances. As the senior class will have been under unusual circumstances as well their data would also not be of use either for General Education planning under normal circumstances.
3. Usefulness of the 2021 Data – High probability the reasons for #2 will still be in effect for both the incoming freshmen and outgoing seniors.
4. Due to Shippensburg's prep for the fall semester it would be extremely difficult to test freshmen in an effective way and likely would incur higher than normal costs for this fall for needs such as remote proctoring and recruitment. Additionally, concern over the time commitment of those involved while they also try and get ready for the fall semester.