

General Education Council

2014-2015 Academic Year

Minutes for the meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2015, in ELL 205 at 3:30 P.M.

Members in attendance included Drs. J. Mike, S. Drzyzga, M. Moilanen, S. Bergsten, A. Predecki, C. Sipes, D. Girard, B. Finucane, L. Cella, W. Kingsley, J. Hamblin, R. Lesman, M. Lucia, K. Shirk, C. Botteron, A. Seibert, K. Lorenz, L. Bryant, A. James, J. Beck, B. Wentz, B. Henson, B. Meyer, J. Clements, and K. Moll.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting

a. Attachment A: Minutes from the meeting on Feb. 24, 2015

Motion made by Dr. Moilanen to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Summary of the conversation with department chairs about General Education Program reform at the College of Arts & Sciences Council meeting on Friday, February 27, 2015. (Dr. Scott Drzyzga)

Dr. Drzyzga presented his report, beginning by expressing optimism based on Governor Wolf's recent statements about increasing the PASSHE budget.

Dr. Drzyzga recently spoke with the UCC chair and Registrar to discuss the UCC proposal revision for Gen Ed special topics ("190") courses.

On April 13, 2015, there will be a meeting between the "Middle States Working Group" and GEC members who recently traveled to Middle States and Assessment conferences. Dr. Drzyzga intends for Drs. Bryant and Girard to be in attendance, but they had not yet received an invitation. Dr. Drzyzga will speak with Associate Provost Schoolcraft to rectify this.

Dr. Drzyzga attended the most recent Arts and Sciences College Council meeting to discuss General Education. Dr. Drzyzga displayed the years during which each PASSHE school has made its most recent revision to General Education programs. West Chester University is at approximately the same place in its revision process as Shippensburg, with implementation of a revised program estimated for 2017. In the current version of the WCU proposal, the program is 48 credits, 12 of which are "Freshman experience"-style courses.

b. Report from our GEC representative at the UCC (Dr. Kate Shirk)

The proposal changing the prerequisite for Chem Bonding was approved by the President.

The MUS 130 proposal was approved by UCC.

The UCC manual states that “special topics” courses can be offered 4 times before becoming permanent offerings, though current GEC guidelines state that 190 courses can only be offered 3 times. This is one of the issues that is intended to be resolved by a UCC proposal that is being considered by the Program Committee.

UCC was informed that this semester’s deadline for submitting 190 proposals is April 1.

c. Reports from our Standing Committees

i. Budget (Dr. Joseph Beck)

1. Grant proposals

One proposal was submitted for meal tickets for a Human Trafficking event. There was divided opinion in the Budget Committee, so the decision was left to the Provost, who rejected the proposal.

ii. Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)

1. Report

The Assessment Committee looked at drafts of assessment rubrics, making notes and requests for clarification.

Data is being gathered from “skills departments” (HCS, ENG, HIS, MAT).

There was a discussion on the CLA standardized testing. Currently 85 seniors have taken the test, and a flyer is being drafted to entice more students to take it. Dr. Botteron volunteered to help trim down the flyer to make it easier for students to view on mobile devices. The committee is still looking into options for getting freshmen to take the exam. Participation continues to be the major obstacle to this assessment.

TracDat is still looking promising for use as an assessment tool.

iii. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)

1. Meeting minutes

2. Course proposals

The Program Committee is continuing to work on rubrics with the Assessment Committee.

There was an extended discussion on a UCC proposal to revise the original proposal that created the Gen Ed special topics (190) courses. Since this proposal was not distributed in time to be included on the agenda, the PC will continue to work on it and plans to submit it to GEC for consideration in April.

iv. First Year Experience (Dr. Kirk Moll)

This committee has not met since the last GEC meeting.

4. New Business

a. Nominations for GEC faculty co-chair and GEC secretary, AY 2015-2016.

Dr. Drzyzga was nominated for faculty co-chair. Drs. Hamblin and Feeney were nominated for secretary. Nominations will be continued to be accepted until the April meeting when elections will be held.

Since the April GEC meeting conflicts with the undergraduate research conference, there was a concern that GEC may not have a quorum in April.

Dr. Hamblin made a motion that, in the event GEC does not reach a quorum in April, elections for AY 2015-16 officers be held electronically. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Announcements

a. Apr. 1, 2015 is the effective deadline for departments to submit new 190-type proposals to be considered before and for Fall 2015.

b. The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, Apr. 21. Elections for AY 2015-2016. This meeting will be the final meeting of AY 2014-2015.

6. Call to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.