

# General Education Council

2015-2016 Academic Year

Agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, in ELL 205 at 3:30 P.M.

**Members in attendance: J. Mike, S. Drzyzga, S. Bergsten, A. Predecki, C. Sipes, D. Girard, D. Kalist, L. Cella, A. Feeney, D. Birsch, M. Knight, J. Hamblin, L. Bryant, B. Shover, K. Shirk, C. Botteron, C. Bertram, K. Lorenz, A. James, F. Liu, B. Wentz, T. Gibbon, B. Meyer, J. Clements, H. Liu, B. Wallace, K. Moll, J. Fowler, K. Sypniewski**

1. Call to order

**Meeting was called to order at 3:35pm.**

2. Approve the Minutes of the two previous meetings

- a. Attachment A: Minutes from the meeting on Sept. 22, 2015

**Motion to approve (Predecki). Correction to add S. Mortimer-Smith was made to the attendance list. Motion passed unanimously.**

## Old Business

3. General Education Special Topic "Great Discoveries in Archeology"

- a. Attachment B: Approval notice

**Dr. Drzyzga presented the memo that is being generated and sent to interested parties when Gen Ed special topics courses are approved.**

4. Report from our new GEC representative at the UCC (Dr. Beverley Wallace)

**ENG course number changes to WIFYS and related courses are in process. There is an increasing trend of General Education courses or sections that are restricted to majors. There was discussion about the various reasons why departments restrict some sections of Gen Ed courses, and what impact this has on minors or the Honors program. Dr. Drzyzga was asked to look at how many sections are being restricted across Gen Ed.**

**More departments and colleges across campus are creating "first year experience" courses for their majors; this should be distinguished from a general first-year experience course for all students. We were encouraged to consider these departmental courses and how they relate to the EYE being looked at by GEC.**

5. Report about our campus-wide faculty forum:

- a. Supplement 1: Middle States Commission for Higher Education [NEW] Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation – 13th Edition  
SUP2\_MSCHE\_RevisedStandards2014\_FINAL.pdf
- b. Supplement 2: Why do we need to revise our General Education Program?  
SUP1\_GenEd\_RevisionJustification\_2015-10-02and07.pdf
- c. Attachment C: Notes about comments made and issues raised

- d. Attachment D: April 7, 2010 Letter of Support for General Education Renewal from the President and Provost

**Two faculty forums were held earlier this month on 10/2/15 and 10/8/15. Thanks to Drs. Shirk and Botteron for taking notes at the sessions.**

**Motion (Birsch) to approve the notes taken at the faculty forum and distribute to the faculty.**

**Discussion: Is this “rough draft” the best thing to send out to faculty? Perhaps include a one-page executive summary? The environment was “anxious” and there was skepticism about whether we “really need” a relatively ambitious revision of Gen Ed rather than doing a simpler revision of the existing program. There was discussion about whether there would be consequences with Middle States if no significant changes are made. Such consequences might include additional follow-up visits that would be expensive to the university.**

**Dr. Drzyzga: Middle States characterized the University’s assessment efforts as “desultory.” Faculty who participated in the most recent Middle States review had a strong sense that it would not be acceptable to “kick the can” on assessment. Simply modifying the current Gen Ed program to assess the missing objectives from Middle States would expand the already-too-large program significantly.**

**Motion to Amend (Hamblin): Task Program Committee to generate executive summary of the notes in Appendix C that includes the consequences and sanctions related to non-compliance with Middle States. Motion passes (amending the amendment).**

**Motion to Amend (Mike): Add “ways in which the current Gen Ed program is deficient with respect to the new Middle States standards.” Motion passes (amending the main motion).**

**Main (amended) motion is now:**

***Approve the notes taken at the faculty forum and distribute to the faculty, and task Program Committee to generate executive summary of the notes that includes the consequences and sanctions related to non-compliance with Middle States and ways in which the current Gen Ed program is deficient with respect to the new Middle States standards.***

**Motion passes.**

## Reports from our Standing Committees

6. Budget (Dr. Ben Meyer)
- a. Balance: \$12,000
  - b. Attachment E: General Education Grant proposal (Dr. Sam Benbow)

**Met 10/9, elected new chair (Meyer) and secretary (Moilanen).**

**Motion from the committee to recommend approval by the Provost of the grant application (Attachment E).**

7. Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)

- a. Activity report

**Met 10/15. Looked over assessment material that Math has provided, talked about getting data from ENG, HCS, and HIS. Looking at Middle States assessment objectives and how the existing Gen Ed objectives match up (or fail to do so).**

8. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)

- a. Activity report  
b. Attachment F: Minutes from the meeting on Sept. 15, 2015

**Met on 10/20. Elected chair (Bergsten) and secretary (Lorenz). PC is looking at feedback from faculty forums.**

9. First Year Experience (Dr. Allison Predecki)

- a. Activity report

**Met on 10/7. Elected chair (Predecki) and secretary (Hamblin). Received charge of how EYE can exist within existing program without adding an additional course. Working with the core Gen Ed courses (WIFYS, HIS 105/106, HCS 100, and possibly math). Looking at learning objectives of these courses and how we can be explicit about these objectives with students.**

**Motion (Moll). EYE committee to be added as a standing committee.**

**Point of order (Hamblin): This would require a change to the bylaws.**

**Motion to Postpone (Drzyzga): Postpone discussion of this issue until the next meeting. Motion passed.**

**Motion (Hamblin): Create ad-hoc bylaws committee to make recommendations on changes to the bylaws to add the EYE committee as a standing committee. Motion passed.**

## New Business

10. Announcements

11. Call to adjourn

**Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.**