

# General Education Council

2015-2016 Academic Year

Agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2015, in ELL 205 at 3:30 P.M.

Members in attendance: J. Mike, S. Drzyzga, S. Bergsten, A. Predecki, D. Girard, D. Kalist, L. Cella, A. Feeney, D. Birsch, M. Knight, J. Hamblin, M. Pineda-Volk, M. Lucia, K. Shirk, C. Botteron, M. Greenberg, S. Pineda-Volk, J. Beck, B. Wentz, M. Bratina, T. Gibbon, B. Meyer, H. Liu, K. Moll

1. Call to order

**Meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.**

2. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting
  - a. Attachment A: Minutes from the meeting on Oct. 27, 2015

**Motion to approve minutes (Lucia). A correction was made to Item 6 to change the Budget Committee chair to Meyer. Motion approved unanimously.**

3. Summary of recent events [ US DOE, MSCHE, PASSHE, SHIP ]
  - a. Attachment B: Accreditation in the news

**Dr. Drzyzga brought attention to a memo issued by the Department of Education on 11/5/15. There is a push to make the accreditation process more rigorous and flexible. A common counterargument to Gen Ed reform is that “Middle States won’t do anything.” However, Middle States is making moves that may allow them to have a bigger impact than is currently possible.**

**In addition, the PASSHE Board of Governors is looking at General Education. Not much information is available, however PASSHE is reportedly looking to create a modern General Education program focused on competencies (“employability skills”) rather than content areas.**

**Dr. Drzyzga encourages the GEC membership to share the references in Attachment B with their departments.**

4. Old Business
  - a. Reconstitute the ad hoc Amendment Committee
    - i. Attachment C: GEC By-laws

**Dr. Drzyzga distributed a sign-up sheet for the Amendment Committee.**

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

**Dr. Wallace is not present, so her report was given by Dr. Drzyzga.**

**Psychology has a proposal to eliminate PSY 102. This course was last offered in 2014.**

**A new course, GER 220, is being proposed, and Modern Languages may propose to add this course to General Education in the future.**

**UCC is discussing a new policy that a new course proposal should be accompanied by a program proposal that explains where the course fits into the program. This impacts Gen Ed since General Education is a “program.”**

c. Reports from our Standing Committees

i. Budget (Dr. Ben Meyer)

1. Attachment D: Minutes from its meeting on Oct., 9, 2015
2. Attachment E: Minutes from its meeting on Nov., 11, 2015

**The Budget Committee met and discussed ways to solicit new proposals. Dr. Cella suggested that a WIFYS proposal might be a good use of the money, to match with some of the activities in other first-year skills courses (HCS, World History). Dr. Drzyzga suggested that GEC members should go back to their departments and encourage their members to submit proposals.**

ii. Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)

1. Attachment F: Minutes from its meeting on Nov., 11, 2015

**The Assessment Committee worked to try to map existing Gen Ed assessment goals with what is required by Middle States. The committee is also continuing to collect data from skills data, including from History and Math. There was discussion about the wording in part of the minutes from the Assessment Committee meeting. These will be clarified and redistributed at the next GEC meeting.**

iii. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)

1. Attachment G: Minutes from its meeting on Oct., 20, 2015
2. Attachment H: Minutes from its meeting on Nov., 11, 2015
3. Attachment I: UCC proposed new Subject Code Policy (#Policy\_1\_2015)

**Dr. Bergsten first discussed the UCC policy proposal. Motion to approve by the committee. Various concerns were raised, including why this proposal is necessary and what the new approval process for a proposal with a new code would be.**

**Motion to postpone discussion until the next meeting (Birsch). Approved unanimously.**

**Follow-up from the motion at the last meeting, for the PC to provide a summary of faculty forums with a summary of concerns regarding the possible impact of Middle States.**

**Dr. Drzyzga gave the GEC an update: Dr. Lyman has expressed her continued support for the previous letter stating that Gen Ed reform shall not result in faculty retrenchment. She will talk to the President about perhaps writing a new letter. Dr. Lyman was also invited to speak at the January 2016 GEC meeting.**

**Since the attachment was not provided with the agenda, GEC will not be able to approve this document until the January 2016 meeting.**

iv. Reports from our ad hoc Committees

1. First Year Experience (Dr. Allison Predecki)
2. Attachment J: Minutes from its meeting on Oct. 17, 2015

**Dr. Predecki reported that the EYE Committee discussed a common theme to tie together the first-year required courses: "Navigating the Seas," and "4 C's." Also discussed were logos, branding, and mission statements for clearly indicating to students the importance of these courses, and helping point them towards tutoring resources. There was discussion about possible tactics for helping students develop better study skills. This discussion will continue in future EYE meetings.**

5. New Business

**No new business.**

6. Announcements

7. Call to adjourn

**Meeting adjourned at 4:51pm.**