

General Education Council

2015-2016 Academic Year

Minutes for the meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 in ELL 205 at 3:30pm

Members in attendance: J. Mike, S. Drzyzga, M. Moilanen, S. Bergsten, A. Predecki, C. Sipes, D. Girard, D. Kalist, L. Cella, A. Feeney, D. Birsch, M. Knight, J. Hamblin, M. Lucia, K. Shirk, C. Botteron, C. Bertram, K. Lorenz, F. Liu, B. Wentz, M. Bratina, B. Meyer, J. Clements, H. Liu, B. Wallace, K. Moll

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting
 - a. Attachment A: Minutes from the meeting on Jan. 26, 2016

Motion (Bertram) to approve. Correction to change “Agenda” to “Minutes.” Removing a portion of the Program Committee report to say that changes to the proposed draft Gen Ed program are still being made.

3. Old Business
 - a. 2015 Open Faculty Forum, follow up
 - i. Attachment B: Letter of support from President Harpster and Provost Lyman

This letter outlines the nature and importance of Gen Ed reform, including a promise that retrenchment will not occur as a result of Gen Ed renewal.

Provost Lyman was present at the meeting and spoke briefly about the letter. She asked GEC for suggestions on what other ways the Provost and President can support the reform efforts. Dr. Lyman suggested several ideas, including possible support to investigate reform efforts at other universities, especially relating to the development of First-Year seminars/experiences.

Dr. Shirk asked if the letter was being distributed to all faculty. Dr. Mike suggested that the departmental representatives are responsible for sharing the information with departments, either via email or at department meetings.

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

Dr. Drzyzga reminded everyone that ENG 106 (WIFYS) is now ENG 114. Dr. Cella volunteered to have any questions related to this change be directed to her. Dr. Drzyzga also let the group know that the UCC proposal revising the Gen Ed special topics (“190”) courses was never uploaded to UCC due to a website error. This error has been corrected and the proposal will hopefully be considered at the March UCC meeting.

Dr. Wallace attended the most recent UCC meeting. She stated that there were no proposals related to the Gen Ed categories, but there were some changes related to the Diversity requirement. EEC 411 has been removed from the Diversity requirement. The English department has made significant

changes to their program, and some courses from ENG were also removed from the Diversity requirement.

Dr. Wallace asked that she be replaced as the UCC-GEC representative, since she hasn't been able to attend UCC meetings.

Dr. Birsch volunteered.

Motion (Shirk) to approve Dr. Birsch as the alternate, who would fill in for Dr. Wallace. Motion approved.

Motion (Clements) to approve Dr. Hamblin as the 2nd alternate, as Dr. Birsch may not be able to attend the remaining UCC meetings this semester. Motion approved.

- c. Reports from our Standing Committees
 - i. Budget (Dr. Ben Meyer)

A message was sent to department chairs to solicit Gen Ed grant proposals. Discussions are ongoing for how to better market the program to get more proposals to be submitted.

The deadline for proposals is **March 14, 2016**.

- ii. Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)
 - 1. Attachment C: Minutes from its meeting on Dec. 3, 2015

Dr. Girard stated that the AC met in December to discuss the "job" of the committee. The committee also met on February 12, but minutes have not been written up yet. The AC is starting to look at assessment data and hopes to have some details for the next GEC meeting.

- iii. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)
 - 1. Attachment D: Minutes from its meeting on Jan. 19, 2016
 - 2. Attachment E: UCC Proposal 15-152 regarding MAT117
 - 3. Attachment F: UCC Proposal 15-155 regarding MAT217

Dr. Bergsten stated that the PC has reorganized their thinking along the lines of "themes," echoing one of the suggestions made earlier by Dr. Lyman.

Attachments E and F require action by GEC. MAT 117 will be reduced from 4 to 3 credits. MAT 217 is a renumbering of MAT 313 and an increase from 3 to 4 credits. Students would take MAT 217 if they are interested in the Data Science minor. The PC recommends approval of these two proposals.

Dr. Hamblin answered several questions about the proposals.

Motion (Program Committee) to recommend UCC approval of UCC proposal 15-152. Motion passed.

Motion (Program Committee) to recommend UCC approval of UCC proposal 15-155, with a note to make sure that there are enough sections of MAT 117. Motion passed.

- d. Reports from our ad hoc Committees

- i. Amendment Committee (Dr. James Hamblin)
 1. Attachment G: Current GEC Bylaws (last updated on Nov. 21, 2011)
 2. Attachment H: List of proposed bylaw amendments (Feb. 3, 2016)

Dr. Hamblin presented several amendments and asked the GEC membership to consider them. No action could be taken on the amendments because the APSCUF representative was not present. Feedback should be given to Dr. Hamblin via email and the amendments will hopefully be voted on at the March GEC meeting.

- ii. First Year Experience (Dr. Allison Predecki)

Dr. Predecki reported that Dr. Drzyzga recommended that the EYE committee develop a set of goals and actions for further developing an EYE. Dr. Botteron mentioned that some of the department chairs (History, HCS, and English) are also working on the EYE issue, and suggested that Dr. Predecki and Dr. Drzyzga work with them to learn about that work.

Dr. Mike pointed out that there should be a distinction between developing an EYE that can impact immediately with the existing program. However, there is also the potential for a different experience that can fit into a new future program.

4. New Business
 - a. Department and program representative terms are three-years long.
 - b. To foster information transfer, terms were grouped and staggered so that no more than 1/3 of the council membership turns over in a given year.
 - c. Departments and programs with terms that expire in Spring 2016
 - APSCUF
 - Chemistry
 - Computer Science
 - Geography/Earth Science
 - Human Communication Studies
 - Modern Languages
 - Finance and Supply Chain Management
 - Teacher Education

Dr. Drzyzga will be sending out a letter to the chairs of these departments to let them know that they need to elect new representatives.

5. Announcements

Dr. Drzyzga has made a request for the next GEC meeting to be moved so as to not conflict with the Minds@Work student research conference. This request will be considered at the next Forum meeting in March.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 24.

6. Call to adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm.