

General Education Council

2014-2015 Academic Year

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

1. Call to order
2. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting
 - a. Attachment A: Minutes from the meeting on Feb. 24, 2015
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)
 - b. Report from our GEC representative at the UCC (Dr. Kate Shirk)
 - c. Reports from our Standing Committees
 - i. Budget (Dr. Joseph Beck)
 1. Grant proposals
 - ii. Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)
 1. Report
 - iii. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)
 1. Meeting minutes
 2. Course proposals
 - iv. First Year Experience (Dr. Kirk Moll)
4. New Business
 - a. Nominations for GEC faculty co-chair and GEC secretary, AY 2015-2016.
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

General Education Council

2014-2015 Academic Year

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

1. Call to order

Dr. Drzyzga called the meeting to order at 3:34pm. Members in attendance were: Sarah Stokely, Bill Kingsley, James Hamblin, Billy Henson, Alison Predecki, Jen Clements, Rob Lesman, Ben Meyer, Joe Beck, Karen Johnson, Fan Liu, Han Liu, Kate Shirk, Michael Drager, Mark Moilanen, Brian Wentz, Ashley Seibert, Brendan Finucane, Dudley Girard, Kirk Moll, Margaret Lucia, Cynthia Botteron, Karl Lorenz, Jerry Fowler, and Laurie Cell, as well as co-chairs James Mike and Scott Drzyzga.

2. Approve the Minutes of the previous meeting

a. Attachment A: Minutes from the meeting on Jan. 27, 2015

Motion to approve (Shirk). All present voted in favor.

3. Old Business

Drzyzga: Follow-up on last meeting. He spoke with Provost Office about 190 approval process. Trying to avoid the situation where 190 course is put on books, students enroll, and then the course is not approved. Last meeting, GEC members asked for a definition of “technological competency,” as mentioned in Dr. Drzyzga’s report from the Middle States conference. Dr. Drzyzga passed this question along to Middle States and received a (vague) response that was passed on to the Program and Assessment Committees.

Dr. Drzyzga went to Forum last week to discuss Gen Ed reform, and will be going to A&S College Council on Friday.

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

UCC met on Feb. 3. HIS 105/106 proposals approved by the President. UCC has asked for a “Save” button on the online proposal submission form, as well as information explaining what information will be required on the form. There is now a check-box on the form indicating that it is distance education, so hopefully there will no longer be a need for two separate forms. Fixes are hoped to be implemented within a month’s time.

Inactivated courses; UCC was notified about courses not offered since Fall 2009 that will be taken off of the books, but Dr. Shirk does not believe any of them are Gen Ed.

b. Reports from our Standing Committees

i. Budget (Dr. Joseph Beck)

1. Grant proposals

- a. **Attachment B: Dr. Benbow – Social Work and Gerontology**
- b. **Attachment C: Dr. Clark – Sociology and Anthropology**
- c. **Attachment D: Drs. Godshalk and Harrow – History/English**

Dr. Shane's event was successful; presentations by Laura Lebo, attended by 65+50 people. Presentations "addressed philosophical questions regarding the nature of scientific theories as abstract representations of natural processes as well as how empirical observations and testing are used to verify or refute hypotheses."

There is currently \$17,000 left in the budget. GEC is currently considering 3 proposals (totaling approximately \$4400) that are waiting to be approved by the Provost.

Dr. Drzyzga reminded the GEC that the Provost has the final say on which proposals are approved. The GEC's role (delegated to the Budget Committee) is to make recommendations to the Provost. Since we have money available, GEC members are encouraged to remind their respective departments to submit applications for grants.

Dr. Lorenz asked whether there was a precedent for meals being covered by GEC grants. Several members responded that meals have been covered in the past, and Dr. Godshalk mentioned specifically that his proposal ties in directly with his course, which explores the connections between food and history.

ii. **Assessment (Dr. Dudley Girard)**

1. **Report re: the AACU's General Education Assessment Conference**

Dr. Girard and Dr. Bryant traveled to Kansas City to attend this conference. Dr. Girard presented his report.

Many schools have an assessment coordinator whose job is to manage program assessment. At many schools, assessment items are scored by "readers" to provide objective measurements; the downside of that being that the readers needed to be reimbursed. Many schools using a "tagging" system; often layering tags on top of an existing category system. Tags are limited to at most two tags per course. Commonly, Gen Ed reform efforts met frequently with faculty from across campus to keep everyone in the loop. A wide variety of schools were represented, including Bloomsburg University. Another takeaway was the importance of making Gen Ed valued at the university. Also, the purpose of assessment is to improve the program, not to prove what you already think your program does. Another observation was that it is very important to have a plan to transition between the old and new plans.

The Assessment Committee will meet again next week to discuss assessment rubrics. Dr. Drzyzga suggested that Drs. Girard and Bryant meet with the members who went to the Middle States conference to compare notes.

iii. Program (Dr. Sherri Bergsten)

1. Meeting minutes

- a. Attachment E: Jan. 14, 2015**
- b. Attachment F: Jan. 20, 2015**
- c. Attachment G: Feb. 3, 2015**

2. Course proposals

- a. Attachment H: MAT-190: Math to Save the World**
- b. Attachment I: MUS-130: American Popular Music (UCC#14-168)**

MAT 190 proposal: PC motion to recommend that GEC approve this application. Dr. Botteron asked if the course will be moved into regular rotation; Dr. Galluzzo replied that it is currently in a “try it out” place on the schedule. Dr. Girard noted that this class did not go through the proper approval channels; the course is being taught currently (Spring 2015) and being retroactively considered for approval. All present voted in favor.

MUS 130 proposal: PC motion that GEC recommend this application for approval by UCC. Dr. Lucia mentioned that this class has already been taught successfully as MUS 190, and would now be moving to a permanent offering. Class size averages 45-50, generally two sections per semester. All present voted in favor.

PC continues to work on Gen Ed reform. Members of the PC met with the English department to develop learning objectives and sample rubrics. The goal is to develop rubrics for consistent assessment across the program. After feedback from the Assessment Committee, the PC will continue to develop rubrics for all tags with input from stakeholders across campus.

Dr. Drzyzga reminded the group that an English Department external review recommended against adding a second “one size fits all” writing-intensive course (i.e., a second course like WIFYS) to the Gen Ed curriculum, and rather to allow multiple writing-intensive options, which aligns with the proposed “W” tag.

iv. First Year Experience (Dr. Kirk Moll)

The FYE Committee is looking into how learning objectives are met by required first-year courses as well as other extracurricular activities, including student services and academic programs and services. Departments teaching first-year

required courses have been contacted and are looking into how these objectives are addressed in those courses. In the next 2 weeks, FYE will be meeting and having a similar dialogue with the extracurricular components.

Dr. Drzyzga reminded the group that the new Middle States standards require assessment to be something that is done across the university rather than solely within the academic departments.

The hope of the FYE committee is that this process will foster discussions by which various first-year stakeholders can compare and contrast various first-year activities/courses to improve the first-year experience.

4. New Business

No new business was presented.

5. Announcements

- a. **The March meeting will be held on Thursday, Mar. 26. Nominations for GEC faculty co- chair and GEC secretary, AY 2015-2016.**
- b. **Apr. 1, 2015 is the effective deadline for departments to submit new 190-type proposals to be considered before and for Fall 2015.**
- c. **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 4:26pm.