

General Education Council
Minutes
September 26, 2018
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
UHB 2030

Present: Joseph Partain, Tena Helton, Ken Owen, Steve Schnebly, Stephanie Hedge, Sally LaJoie, Kay McChesney, Heather Dell, Sherine Antoun, Ken Mulliken, Robert Smith, Amie Kincaid

I. Introductions

The General Education Council has a new student representative for AY 2018-19, Joseph Partain. Tena Helton asked everyone introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Agenda – September 26, 2018

ACTION: Heather Dell motioned to approve the agenda. Sherine Antoun seconded and the motion passed 9 for approval, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

III. Approval of Minutes – September 12, 2018

ACTION: Heather Dell motioned to approve the minutes of September 12, 2018; Kay McChesney motioned to amend the minutes by changing the words “tentatively decided” in section IV Paragraph 5 to “suggested”. Sherine Antoun seconded and the motion passed 5 for amending the minutes, 0 against, 4 abstentions.

Sherine Antoun requested to have in the minutes the discussion regarding credit crunches in some majors where it relates to the number of ECCE hours.

Heather Dell stated that although there were two areas of concern, multiple perspectives were presented. One was the credit hour crunch in certain departments and the other was a view that ECCE represents the core value of UIS. Tena Helton asked Dr. Antoun to send Deb Ply an e-mail to add his topic to the agenda for the next meeting.

There was a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Heather Dell seconded and the motion passed 6 for approval, 0 against, 3 abstentions.

IV. Approval of New Courses

BIO 307: Plants & Society Lab – Life Science with Lab (Lab portion of BIO 306 which is an approved Life Science without lab)

ACTION: Due to the discussion of how the lab is being evaluated and how the lab is done online, Ken Owen motioned to table this course until we can find out why a physical science Gen Ed is a 300 level course. Heather Dell seconded and the motion passed 8 for tabling, 0 against, 1 abstention.

V. Recertification of U.S. Communities Courses

A. LES 488 Conviction of the Innocent

ACTION: Heather Dell motioned to revise and resubmit LES 488 in order to work through the diversity and communities issues within the final project and course schedule. It was suggested this course may work better in the Engagement Experience category. Stephanie Hedge seconded the motion. Heather Dell will work with the instructor. The motion passed 8 for Revise and Resubmit, 0 against, 1 abstention.

B. SOA 231 Introduction to Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.

ACTION: Sherine Antoun motioned to table this course as the 200 level is in question. He then withdrew his motion.

Kay McChesney also motioned to table this course due to it being a 200 level ECCE course. Sherine Antoun seconded the motion. Tena Helton said we cannot change policies for those that are currently in the pipeline during the recertification process and that there are some 200 level ECCE courses on file. Kay withdrew her motion.

Heather Dell motioned to revise and resubmit SOA 231 so the instructor can incorporate more information literacy and library research into the assignments. The committee would also like to see more depth of engagement and more clearly defined communities. They are also asking to explain how the course is interdisciplinary.

Ken Owen seconded and the motion passed 8 in favor of Revise and Resubmit, 0 against, 1 abstention. Stephanie Hedge will work with the instructor.

C. SOA 235 Working USA & the 99%

ACTION: Stephanie Hedge motioned to revise and resubmit SOA 235 in order for the instructor to strengthen the course by adding more information literacy, clarification of the weekly reading load, and stronger writing and research requirements. Ken Owen seconded and the motion passed 8 for Revise & Resubmit, 0 against, 1 abstention. Stephanie Hedge will work with the instructor.

D. SOA 325 Latina/o USA

ACTION: Stephanie Hedge motioned to revise and resubmit SOA 325. The committee thought the response papers are weighted more heavily than the research paper. They would like to know how the topics fit in the U.S. Communities criteria. Their suggestion is to reconsider the balance of how the points are distributed as well as the balance of assignments, especially in the final project.

Sally LaJoie seconded and the motion passed 7 for R&R, 0 against, 2 abstentions. Stephanie Hedge will work with the instructor.

VI. Color Coding

Ken Owen wrote a proposal to use color coding to communicate with the faculty on where their course stands in the recertification process.

One suggestion was to change the color to a Tier 1, 2, 3, 4 system since colors can be misconstrued in terms of culture bias. Whichever system is followed it can be used to prioritize work flow.

Ken Owen motioned to adopt the policy striking out the final note. Sherine Antoun seconded and the motion passed 8 for adopting the policy, 0 against, 1 abstention.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Writing Intensity

Tena Helton would like to create a sub-committee to look into the lack of writing intensity in Gen Ed courses. All Gen Ed courses should have a writing intensity component written into the criteria. It was asked of GEC Co to begin thinking outside of their discipline but broadly across all disciplines as part of GEC Co.

ACTION: Stephanie Hedge will take the lead to draft a writing intensity component into course criteria.

Since we have run out of time, Kay McChesney motioned to extend the meeting time to finish the agenda. Stephanie Hedge seconded and the motion passed 8 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Stephanie Hedge, Ken Owen, Joseph Partain, and Heather Dell have volunteered to make up this sub-committee. Tena Helton would like a proposal written by the end of next semester to send to the Senate Executive Committee.

B. Approval of ECCE Revision Process

A process is needed to gather faculty input on ECCE revision. Even though the entity that represents General Education are faculty, there are other faculty members who do not trust GEC Co to represent them. With that in mind, it was discussed how we can move forward.

One suggestion was to form a GEC Co sub-committee to formulate this process, and it should be GEC Co-led. Then the committee would lead the discussions. Another suggestion was to form a GEC Co subcommittee for the process, comprised of an equal number of GEC Co and non-GEC Co members. Another suggestion was to get guidance from Undergraduate Council on how to proceed then send a proposal to the Senate Executive Committee. The majority of the committee came to the consensus that the

first suggestion was best moving forward. It was proposed to send a few GEC members out to speak with departments that have credit crunches and see what issues can be balanced between them and those departments that feel ECCE represents the core value of UIS. Then have faculty focus groups and interviews.

ACTION: Tena Helton will write a process then get responses from GEC.

VIII. Adjournment

Ken Owen motioned to adjourn, Sherine Antoun seconded and the committee adjourned at 3:07 p.m.