

General Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2023

11:00 a.m. – 11:53 a.m.

Zoom

Present

Qin Geng, Matthew Junker, Erin Kraal, Khori Newlander, Megan O’Byrne, Krista Prock, Karen Rauch, and Kathy Stanfa

Absent

Ko-Hsin Hsu

Also Present

Bethany French, Amy Lynch-Binieck

Call to order

M. O’Byrne called the meeting to order at 11:00 am

I. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes from February 16 and February 28, 2023

- i. No minutes submitted; due to a large volume of discussion, these Minutes are still being worked on. They will be presented at the next meeting.

II. Announcements

a. The Category C Rating Party day is scheduled for May 23, 2023, and all members are encouraged to register to attend.

b. K. Rauch shared that she is attending a two-hour workshop on organizing norming sessions, and invited others to attend. If any members wish to attend, the assessment budget has some funds to help cover registration costs, and are requested to contact K. Rauch for more information. The workshop is on April 4 from 2-4pm, and held virtually.

III. Proposals

a. Revision of CMP in General Education

i. A. Lynch-Binieck was present to speak to this proposal.

ii. M. Junker commented that it appears well researched, and a great revision proposal. He asked about theming CMP 200 courses and how would that be advertised to students since they would all have the same course number? A. Lynch-Binieck noted these would be designated as special topics courses and advertised the way other special topics courses have been. She added that this may necessitate working with Orientation to make sure students coming into the university are aware of their availability.

iii. A. Lynch-Binieck brought up that she thinks some of the current 200-level CMP courses could be transitioned to A4 courses in Gen Ed to help with the shortage of courses available in that area.

iv. E. Kraal asked what the pros and cons are to having specific themes to the CMP courses? A. Lynch-Binieck shared that research shows students who have a choice in their courses are more engaged with those courses, and while a theme would cover the bulk of the class and make it easier for the professor to select texts and plan assignments, that may not always be bets for the student. She emphasized that there is a place for certain themes, but that there is a shortage of CMP courses available so the majority of students are taking whatever CMP course they can to meet the requirements.

- v. K. Newlander asked about the expectations for the composition courses. A. Lynch-Binie explained that the goal is to build general writing skills in CMP 100, and that CMP 200 would work on research skills, with A4 courses being more discipline specific writing focuses.
 - vi. The committee discussed issues of staffing and how to determine who has the expertise to teach composition courses. Professional development and training for professors teaching these courses needs to be available. Discussion continued.
 - vii. The committee requested that the proposal be amended to include the requirement of training and a change in special topics.
 - viii. It was moved by K. Rauch, and seconded by M. Junker, to approve this proposal as amended. MOTION PASSED.
- b. GEC-GEAC Integration Proposal
- i. Discussion opened at 11:51am. This proposal would restructure and combine the GEC and GEAC groups into one committee: General Education Program and Assessment Committee (GEPAC). The committee discussed member selection and terms, and the difference between appointees and elected members. The new committee would also have a larger leadership structure with more distribution of duties. This will include more course release time for the chair/vicechairs to complete work and more effective succession planning for the committee. There was a question about timing, and M. O’Byrne stated that it would ideally begin Fall 2023, so planning needs to move quickly to meet that goal, including holding officer elections, course release planning and the creation of the bylaws.
 - ii. It was moved to approve this proposal and submit to UCC by K. Newlander, and seconded by K. Stanfa. MOTION PASSED.

IV. New Business

a. Chair Election

- i. Nominations were opened. M. O’Byrne was nominated to serve as chair by K. Prock, and she accepted the nomination. Nominations were closed.
- ii. The committee voted on M. O’Byrne as chair: none opposed. M. O’Byrne was re-elected as chair for the 2023-2024 academic year.

V. Move to adjourn by K. Prock, seconded by M. Junker. Meeting ended at 12:05pm.