

# General Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2022

11:00 a.m. – 11:57 a.m.

Zoom

## Present

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

## Absent

Ko-Hsin Hsu, and Megan O’Byrne

## Also Present

Thomas Betts, Bethany French, Mahfuzul Khondaker, Rolf Mayrhofer, and Julie Palkendo

## Call to order

K. Prock called the meeting to order at 11:02 am

## I. Approval of Minutes

### a. Minutes from October 25, 2022

- i. No edits
- ii. It was moved by E. Kraal, and seconded by M. Junker, to approve the Minutes.  
MOTION PASSED.

### b. Minutes from Joint GEC/GEAC meeting on October 20, 2022

- i. Edit: correct K. Stanfa’s group affiliation from GEAC to GEC
- ii. It was moved by M. Junker, and seconded by K. Newlander, to approve the Minutes as amended. MOTION PASSED.

## II. Announcements

- a. E. Kraal shared that Michele Baranczyk in the Assessment Office is planning a Spring General Education Day and is asking for subcommittee members to join in planning. E. Kraal will be on it on behalf of the CET. Anyone who would like to participate, please reach out to M. Baranczyk to join the planning committee.

## III. Proposals

### a. LAS 23033 – ANT 274: Human Origins – C1

- i. It was moved by K. Stanfa, and seconded by K. Newlander, to approve this proposal.  
MOTION PASSED

### b. LAS 23035 – SCI 100: Introduction to Scientific Problem Solving – C1

- i. J. Palkendo was present to speak to this proposal.
- ii. It was moved by M. Junker, and seconded by K. Stanfa, to approve this proposal.  
MOTION PASSED.

## IV. New Business

### a. GEC Participation in GEAC norming and rating sessions

- i. B. French provided an overview of what had been discussed at GEAC. The group is planning to do collective rating at the Spring General Education Day, which will be held on May 23, 2023. The professional development sessions are still in the planning stages, but are likely to be targeted towards SLO 2 and those who teach in categories C1 and C2. K. Newlander asked if GEAC was planning to return to volunteer raters, and K. Rauch responded that they will continue having faculty rate their own courses with volunteer

raters providing double-ratings. The professional development day, which GEAC plans to encourage all faculty who have rating to do to attend, will feature a norming session and rating time. The rubrics are also being changed from holistic rubrics to analytic rubrics, so GEAC found this to be a good idea to be able to provide guidance to faculty raters.

- ii. J. Palkendo noted that not all C1 and C2 instructors teach in their courses in the spring semester. These instructors would be encouraged to join the day as volunteer raters and to attend the professional development sessions. K. Newlander added that assessment should not just be done during the semester when GEAC will be reviewing ratings.
- iii. K. Rauch asked for a volunteer to join the planning committee, and K. Newlander volunteered.

## V. Old Business

### a. FYS – LAS 23006 – The Prison Industrial Complex

- i. M. Khondaker was present to speak to this proposal. K. Rauch asked for M. Khondaker to provide a timeline of this proposal since it lists an effective date of Fall 2022. M. Khondaker provided the timeline and noted that he is teaching the course now under a one-time only exception, and is asking for the effective date to be changed to Fall 2023 for the permanent topic.
- ii. It was moved by K. Newlander, and seconded by K. Rauch, to approve this proposal.  
MOTION PASSED.

### b. Program Review

- i. Reports from subcommittees:
  - i. Assessment Subcommittee: K. Rauch provided the update. The subcommittee has begun a draft and met this past week. They plan to have a draft to share with both GEC and GEAC in January.
  - ii. Big Picture Items subcommittee: E. Kraal noted that this subcommittee has not yet met, but is scheduled to meet soon.

### c. FYS Proposed Master Syllabus

- i. K. Prock opened discussion and asked for any updates on this topic. M. Khondaker was present to speak to this, and noted that he has not heard anything since resubmitting an edited proposal. K. Rauch noted that it was discussed at the last meeting and the M. O’Byrne is planning to reach out to him with suggestions. This will be addressed again at the December meeting. M. Khondaker left the meeting.
- ii. K. Newlander noted that the proposed syllabus raises the question about what the mix of academics and orientation is supposed to look like, and was concerned about the level of academic rigor in the course. He added that this is a persistent question, and conversations are needed to determine how FYS should be structured and to do it well, without worrying about a timeline for a particular semester. Discussion ensued.
- iii. K. Stanfa added that she doesn’t believe that the academics in FYS were quantified during the development of the program/course, and that the intention was to have some flexibility and variety of topics to pique the students curiosity. E. Kraal compared this to using templates similar to CMP 200 courses, but is seeing a shift towards a more orientation-based approach. Discussion continued.
- iv. M. Junker brought up the proposed FYS Task Force, and it was noted that M. O’Byrne was going to reach out to M. Khondaker about that. It was suggested to have representatives from GEC, GEAC, and FYS instructors involved in this group.
- v. K. Prock asked if this proposal is able to be shaped into a usable syllabus, or if we should start over. M. Junker thought this would be a job for the FYS Task Force and to start from scratch. E. Kraal agreed to not use the current document but to start over. Q. Geng suggested that we look at master syllabi for FYS at other schools, especially PASSHE

schools, for comparison and ideas. This syllabus needs to be solid and able to provide guidance to any new professors who are not familiar with the courses.

VI. Move to adjourn by K. Newlander, seconded by K. Stanfa. Meeting ended at 11:55am.