

Grand Valley State University  
**General Education Committee Meeting**

303C DeVos Center

Minutes of 1/12/2014

**PRESENT:** Kirk Anderson, Chair; Emily Frigo; Gabriele Gottlieb; Melba Hoffer; Sarah King; Haiying Kong; Jose Lara; Paola Leon; Josita Maouene; Linda Pickett; Paul Sicilian; Susan Strouse; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey; Lawrence Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:** C. "Griff" Griffin, Director, General Education; Jeanne Whitsel, General Education Office Coordinator

**NOT PRESENT:** Cheryl Kautz (will be replacing Andrew Kalafut); Brian Kipp; Martina Reinhold

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
<b>Approval of current Agenda</b>		Approved per consensus
<b>Approval of 1/5/2014 Minutes</b>		Approved per consensus
<p>• <b>How to get more courses with Information Literacy or Oral Communication as goals?</b> - Information Literacy as a goal for WRT 150</p>	<p>Suggestions made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, WRT 150 has these two skills goals: written communication (they chose this over information literacy) and collaboration (they chose this over ethical reasoning). We could see if the Writing department is agreeable to simply "hard-wiring" the two skills to be written communication and information literacy. Preliminary communication between Writing and the GE director indicates that this might work.</li> <li>• Ask unit heads if they would like to have information literacy as an option for selected Foundations categories. The most appropriate categories are Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Historical Perspectives. If so:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add it as a third option or</li> <li>• Have it replace problem solving, which is already well covered, particularly in the science categories</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Target 100 level courses for these goals because they have large enrollments.</li> <li>• For any of these options, new CAPs will be needed for any course that changes goals.</li> <li>• Create a small task force and have them communicate by email to come up with a proposal.</li> </ul> <p>Also discussed: offer goal changes every 6 years instead of every 3, to give current students a chance to graduate before changes are made.</p>	<p>Chair will write an email message to the Writing unit head (Patricia Clark) and the acting director of first year writing (Laurence Jose)</p> <p>Chair will email GEC members to create a task force to propose changes for the purpose of increasing student exposure to info lit.</p>

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
	<p>Director will review departments' original skills goal choices and their reasons for choosing them. She will email the results to members.</p>	<p>Director will review skills goal choices and email information to members.</p>
<p>• <b>Language for HST 333 denial and HNR 263/264/265 amendments</b></p>	<p><b>HST 333 Log #8748</b> The language of the denial was approved by consensus.</p> <p><b>HNR263/264/265 Log #8677, 8676, 8678</b> The language of the amendment was approved by consensus.</p>	<p>Chair will deny the proposal, as voted on last meeting.</p> <p>Chair will ask for an amendment, as voted on last meeting.</p>
<p>• <b>Curriculum items for consideration</b></p> <p>- <b>Log 8784: Course change – EAS 201, East Asia in the Contemporary World [new to GEC, submitted 11/25/2014]</b></p> <p><b>Note: The change is to add the course to Historical Perspectives, in addition to the current World Perspectives designation. Proposed goals are Critical and</b></p>	<p><b>EAS 201 – Log 8784</b> This one is well done. The General Education statement is still not being autopopulated in the SoR; we will ask the author to insert it. It can be added as a point at the end of the list of things students should be able to do on successful completion of the course.</p> <p>“Cultures – WP” should not be shown under “Credits”. That field should contain the number of credits. We will ask for this to be changed.</p> <p>There is very little mentioned regarding creative thinking, as is often the case with the Critical and Creative Thinking goal; should Critical and Creative Thinking be separated into two goals?</p> <p>We will request the two small amendments above, and ask that this be returned to the chair only.</p> <p>Given all the Sail problems, which leave us wondering at times whether a problem lies in the proposal or with Sail, we will ask for volunteers to “propose” a test course to see how Sail behaves.</p>	<p>M. Hoffer moved to request amendment, G. Gottlieb second. Motion carried 15-0.</p> <p>Chair will ask GEC members to try out the new “test” system with a mock proposal.</p>

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
<p><b>Creative Thinking and Ethical Reasoning.</b></p> <p><b>- Log 8756: New course – LIB 323, Design Thinking to Meet Real World Needs [new to GEC, submitted 12/8/2014]</b></p> <p><b>Note: This is a hybrid course in the Information, Innovation, and Technology Issue. FYI, the current syllabus is included in the system, and the proposer requested that we consider it.</b></p>	<p><b>LIB 323 Log # 8756</b></p> <p>The proposer could not get the formatting to come out right for the SoR in the online system, so she uploaded a Word document instead. The document does not contain the GE statement, so we will ask her to add it as a small technical amendment. The proposal is to be returned to Kirk only, and will be approved once the statement is added. We will also ask permission to use this as a model proposal.</p>	<p>P. Thorpe moved to request amendment and permission to use as model, J. Lara second. Motion carried 15-0.</p>
<p><b>Chair's Report</b></p>	<p>Our next meeting will be on January 26. We will have two ART proposals and one LIB proposal to review then. We will have more CAR reviews to do in early February.</p>	
<p><b>Director's Report</b></p>	<p>We have requested IT to make a list of changes in Sail. IT has a change form for us to review; we can discuss it at the next meeting. The chair will ask for volunteers to enter a test course to fill in the boxes and see what happens, and will try it himself.</p> <p>In another test phase, we will be able to download a spreadsheet for entering assessment data and upload the filled-in version so data does not have to be entered online.</p> <p>A few instructors have not yet submitted their CARs. We've reminded them to do so. If we don't</p>	

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Taken
	<p>receive the CAR after multiple attempts, the Unit will receive the policy statement about General Education Assessment, which includes the possible removal of the course from the GE Program.</p> <p>The director surveyed students regarding how they feel their skills improved as a result of taking GE courses. Results indicate they do see improvement, particularly in integration, which is only done in Issues. Most students rated themselves initially in the low 4s on a 6-point scale and rose to the middle and upper 4s. The director will report officially on the results when our graduate assistant is done crunching the numbers. We got above a 20% response rate, which is considered good.</p>	<p>Director will report on survey results</p>
<b>Adjournment</b>		4:02 pm