

General Education Committee Meeting

303C DeVos

Minutes of 1/27/2025

PRESENT: Beomkyu Choi; Kathryn Christopher; Phyllis Curtiss; Dori Danko; Brian Drake; Firas Hindeleh; Dennis Malaret; Rajvardhan Patil; Patrick Thorpe; David Vessey, Chair; Janet Winter

ALSO PRESENT: C. "Griff" Griffin, Director, General Education; Felix Ngassa, AVP of Academic Affairs; Jennifer Cathey, General Education Office Coordinator

NOT PRESENT: Hsiao-Ping Chen; Maya Hobscheid; Chad Sutcliffe

Consent Agenda

- Approval of today's agenda – Chair asked to add a discussion about Essential Skills to the agenda.
- Approval of minutes 1/13/24

Chair's Report – The Chair attended the "Curriculum Nuts and Bolts" session hosted by the Provost's Office. Several GEC members' terms are ending this year. If members are eligible for reelection and wish to continue, they are encouraged to run again.

Director's Report – The Web Team is currently working to update SAIL to reflect the "Choose Your Own Skill" option in the GE Form. These changes will impact all previous proposals. The Director is exploring whether a new form can be added while preserving the old one, so historical skill data on existing GE courses is not lost.

The GE Graduate Assistant (GA) is working on the Diversity Report. Previously, a PPG methodology was used, which had been challenged by previous GEC members. The GA is conducting a statistical analysis to assess whether the PPG was an adequate methodology. Early results appear positive.

AAC&U discussed the possibility of implementing a Learning E-Record, allowing students to view more detailed skills and information on their transcripts, like a medical record. This would be valuable to employers, and many institutions are adopting this model. Currently, GVSU transcripts show information like Study Abroad, Research Intensive, and Community-Based Learning in addition to grades. The Director is in discussions with AAC&U about how to integrate skills into the transcript, considering whether they should be based on exposure or competence. There is also the possibility of renaming "Skills" to "Essential Skills." AAC&U uses the term "Essential Outcomes," which encompasses both Knowledge and Skill Outcomes.

Provost Office Report – By February 10, all units will be evaluated for compliance with the BA/BS Cognate.

Four new programs—BS/MS in Artificial Intelligence and BS/MS in Software Engineering—will be presented to the Board of Trustees.

The Department of Environmental Science is a new unit in CLAS, and the Department of Computer Science and Department of Information Sciences and Technologies are new units in the College of Computing.

Regarding prior learning assessment, ACE has a list of prior learning and the corresponding credits to be granted by universities. GVSU is currently developing a process to approve prior learning credits. Omni will review the list before sending it to the appropriate college for approval.

New Business

- Review and Discuss CARs

STA 126

Action Taken: B. Drake moved to place MTH 126 on Warning. D. Malaret 2nd. Motion carries 10-0-1.

PHO 170

Action Taken: P. Curtiss moved to place PHO 170 on Warning. P. Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 10-0-1.

- Using the term Essential Skills in place of Skills SLOs

Action Taken: D. Malaret moved to approve Skills to Essential Skills. D. Danko 2nd. Motion carries 10-0-1.

Curriculum

- ENV 160: Foundations of Environmental Science (Log# 13391) – Add to Foundations – Life Sciences w/Lab

Amendments – Change group assessment to individual assessment.

Consider changing Information Literacy to another skill or modify it to be clearer.

Clarify how ENV 160 differs from BIO 105 and consider renaming the course.

Discuss whether the course can be required in the major while still being available for GE students.

Action Taken: D. Danko moved to ask for an amendment. P. Thorpe 2nd. Motion carries 11-0.

Adjournment – 4:29 p.m.