

General Education Committee
Meeting Agenda
February 25, 2019 at 3 p.m.
HSS 3035

Members Present: Paige Wimberley, Bethany Seaton, Bert Greenwalt, Summer DeProw, Karen Yanowitz, Hong Zhou, Marc Williams, Ferebee Tunno, Robert Schichler, Rebecca Oliver, Joseph Rukus, Zahid Hossain, Lillie Fears
Guest: Ed Salo, Jill Simons

Guest presentation from Dr. Jill Simons, Associate VC for Academic Affairs and Student Retention (15 minutes) – Dr. Wimberley called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and turned the floor over to Dr. Simons. Dr. Simons shared updates from the Chancellors Completion Commission. She discussed first year retention and graduate rates, both of which are low numbers for A-State. She explained a hand out that updated the committee on the seven priorities that the completion commission is working on and helped to explain what measures are used in retention. One of the examples that Dr. Simons gave was Georgia State as an institution that was comparable to ours that moved their retention measures significantly. She talked about average change of major numbers and meta-majors for incoming first time full time freshman to reduce the time the students spend moving majors. Dr. Simons also addressed DFW rates and what the completion commission is doing to help address those gateway courses.

Dr. Simons discussed making the general education different than a high school education through explaining the why's of why general education is important. This was suggested as a best practice through AACU. The committee is also looking to lower the financial barriers for students.

Dr. DeProw asked where the committee would go to get further analytics on general education and Dr. Simons said that soon the Provost office will be going around to Colleges to get this information out.

- I. Meeting minutes from January 28, 2019 – Rebecca Oliver moved to approve. Joe Rukus seconded. All Approved.

Quick and Mostly New Business

- II. Memorandum from Theatre Department
 - a. Instrument pilot –Marc Williams said they are changing the measure to reduce cheating and also give the instructor more flexibility. The department thinks this will deliver better results. Rukus motioned to approve, Yanowitz seconded. All Approved.
- III. Curriculum change proposals from History Department
 - a. HIST 1013 course revision – The history department would like to change the time frame on the course name and adjusting content in teaching. This will move it more into the accepted way of teaching world history. This will be more flexible for teachers and provide a more global history. Also, we feel that it will

seem a little more exciting to students. Marc Williams moved to approved. Zahid Hossain seconded. All approved for both history course revisions.

- b. HIST 1023 course revision
- IV. Another update on GEOL 1003 and 1001 Environmental Geology and Laboratory – A request for a professor to teach Geology and Physical Science is at the top of Dr. Cooksey’s list. Hopefully this should happen quickly.

Lengthy and Old Business

- V. Book of Committees proposal—Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Dr. Zahid Hossain – The committee was presented two handouts for the Book of Committees proposals. Please see attached. The provost recommends since all colleges have a stake in general education, that all colleges get an equal vote. We would like to vote on which proposal the committee would like to move forward with next week at our next meeting. This new idea would be identical to the makeup of UCC and GC.
- VI. General Education Strategic Plan—Dr. Karen Yanowitz
 - a. Synopsis from meeting with Deans on February 11, 2019 – Dr. Yanowitz updated the committee on the sub-committee work. This subcommittee was originally formed to focus on changes to learning outcomes, but this changed when the Dean’s shared their vision of general education. The sub-committee ultimately decided to bring the conversation back to the committee as a whole because the conversation has become much larger than reworking learning outcomes. There are a lot of factors that could drive this discussion. The committee hopes to discuss this in more detail at further meetings.
 - b. Meeting minutes from February 11, 2019 –Meeting was adjourned at this point in the meeting agenda at 4:06 pm.
- VII. Another Update on Teaching Award—Assessment Office, Dr. David Harding, and Dr. Karen Yanowitz
- VIII. Process refinement: Changes to assessment plans and GEC notification

Old Business for Future Meetings

- I. Professional Development
 - a. Arkansas Course Transfer System
 - b. ADHE requirements for general education
 - c. Transfer student success
 - d. Report on ULOs
 - e. Report on *Leaving the Den* survey

Proposed General Education Committee Restructure: Equal Voting

College/Unit	# Representatives	Status	Term Expires
Agriculture & Technology	1	voting	2020
Business	1	voting	2021
Education & Behavioral Science	1	voting	2022
Engineering & Computer Science	1	voting	2020
Liberal Arts & Communication	1	voting	2021
Nursing & Health Professions	1	voting	2022
Sciences & Mathematics	1	voting	2020
University College	1	voting	2021
Honors College	1	Voting or non-voting? <u>Voting or non-voting?</u>	2022
Military Science	1	Non-voting	
Assessment	1*	<i>Ex-officio</i>	
AAR	1	<i>Ex-officio</i>	

General Education Committee Representatives are elected or appointed by their college/unit.

This committee restructure is based on a 6 year rotation model. All terms begin with the 2019-2020 academic year.

Voting Representatives serve a ~~3-~~year appointment on the General Education Committee. The terms are staggered to provide continuity. If a representative steps down before their term has expired, the new representative will fulfill the remainder of the term.

Voting Representatives can serve for 2 terms, but must roll off the General Education Committee for 1 term before being reelected or reappointed.

Voting representatives must have 2 years of full-time continuous service at A-State before serving on the General Education Committee.

The Chair of the General Education Committee must be a tenured faculty member who has previously served on the General Education Committee. This role is elected from and by the General Education Committee. This role serves for three academic years. If the Chair steps down before their term expires, ~~a new chair will be elected. the Vice-Chair will fulfill the remainder of the term. A new Vice-Chair would be elected and fulfill the remainder of that term.~~

~~The Vice-Chair of the General Education Committee must be a tenured faculty member who has previously served on the General Education Committee. This role is elected from and by the General Education Committee. This role serves for two academic years and is staggered with the Chair to provide continuity.~~

~~Example of Chair and Vice-Chair Term Rotation~~

Chair Term 1	Vice-Chair 1	Vice-Chair 2	Chair Term 2	Vice-Chair 3
19-20	19-20	21-22*	22-23	23-24
20-21	20-21	22-23*	23-24	24-25
21-22			24-25	

~~*Notice that Vice-Chair 2 overlaps and provides continuity between Chair 1 and Chair 2.~~

Non-voting and ex-officio representatives do not have term limits.

? Should Military Science have or need representation on the General Education Committee? Is there some history behind this?

Proposed General Education Committee Restructure: [Gen Ed Categories \(Version 2\)](#)

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Engineering & Computer Science	1	voting	2020
Liberal Arts & Communication	4	1 Humanities voting 1 Social Sciences voting 1 Fine Arts voting 1 Communication voting	2021 2022 2020 2021
Nursing & Health Professions	1	voting	2022
Sciences & Mathematics	2	1 Sciences voting 1 Mathematics voting	2020 2021
Undergraduate Studies University College	1	<i>Non-voting</i>	
Honors College	1	<i>Non-voting</i>	
Military Science?	1	<i>Non-voting</i>	
Assessment	1*	<i>Ex-officio</i>	
AAR	1	<i>Ex-officio</i>	

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*Plus staff support

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<u>20-21</u>	<u>20-21</u>	<u>22-23*</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>
<u>21-22</u>			<u>24-25</u>	

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