I. Adoption of Agenda

Gorman asked if the General Education Coordinator’s report could be moved to later in the agenda and that C. Bylaws be added to New Business. Lundstrum made a motion, seconded by Wiemer, to APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Announcements

A. Minutes for the January 17, 2013, meeting were approved electronically through Vibe.

III. General Education Coordinator’s Report. See IV.D. below.

IV. Old Business

A. Assessment Plan.

B. Resubmissions.

1. PHIL 205. Gorman said that he reviewed the resubmission and their assessment materials are exemplary. Smith reported that she had a completed rubric and the reviewer marked that everything was provided and meets expectations. Gorman made a motion, seconded by Wiemer, TO APPROVE THE RESUBMISSION FOR PHIL 205. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Physics courses. Gorman said that the resubmissions were OK except for PHYS 150 and PHYS 180. Umoren agreed, except she noted that for PHYS 253 there didn’t seem to be data and for PHYS 252 and PHYS 273, they only provided samples of their pre-test, not the post-test. Discussion followed whether or not the GEC should also have samples of the post-test as well as any other missing data or information. Klonoski suggested that if some of their resubmission are acceptable, the department could be advised to refer to those to improve the other resubmissions. Gorman and Umoren agreed that the resubmissions that are acceptable are PHYS 162, PHYS 210, and PHYS 211. For PHYS 150/150A and PHYS 180/181, they stated that they do some assessment from coursework.
and have some data, but they don’t discuss how they’ve used the data to improve the courses. Also, more data are needed for PHYS 273. Umoren made a motion, seconded by Coller, TO APPROVE THE RESUBMISSIONS FOR PHYS 162, PHYS 210, PHYS 211, PHYS 253 (PENDING THE RECEIPT OF A SPREADSHEET FOR THEIR DATA). AND TO NOT APPROVE AT THIS TIME PHYS 150, PHYS 150A, PHYS 180, PHYS 181, AND PHYS 273, ASKING FOR MORE DATA, A CLEARER EXPLANATION OF WHAT THEY ARE ASSESSING AND HOW THEY ARE USING DATA TO IMPROVE THE COURSE. Motion passed unanimously. There was a broader discussion about sending correspondence every year to departments with general education course regarding the types of data the GEC is expecting to receive. It was noted that the departments with general education courses up for resubmission in the next academic year are sent reminders.

C. Submissions.

1. POLS 201. Smith reported that she recently received a revised submission and this will be on the GEC agenda for the next meeting.
2. ARTH courses. Nothing more has been received.
3. ARTE 109. Nothing more has been received.

D. General Education Revision. Kolb reported that the General Education Visioning Task Force met and received the charge from Provost Alden. The next meeting is February 22 and Kolb previewed what the discussion items would be including student data from the Academic Advising Center.

V. New Business

A. Humanities and Arts Area Issue. Birberick reviewed with the GEC that because two courses from the College of Education were added to the Humanities and Arts area of general education, the wording for the catalog was revised at the September 20, 2012, GEC meeting. The revision eliminated the wording, “with at least one course taken in the College of Liberal Arts Sciences and one course taken in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.” In addition, the GEC deleted the list of course designators that are from the two colleges. Birberick reported that she and Gorman recently received an e-mail from LA&S Associate Dean Doederlein, supported by an e-mail from V&PA Dean Holly. Doederlein stated that these revisions to the Humanities and Arts section of the catalog have had unintended consequences, namely that it would be possible for students to complete their Humanities and Arts general education requirements without taking a course from either LA&S or V&PA, and she is asking that the deleted language be added back to the catalog. She also expressed her concern that the colleges involved were not directly consulted on the catalog revisions. The latter issue was addressed; there were voting representatives from both colleges on the GEC when the revisions were approved, and on the UCC when the GEC minutes were received at their November 1, 2012, meeting. The issue of the unintended consequences of the catalog revisions was then discussed. Birberick stated that while it is mathematically possible for students to complete their Humanities and Arts general education requirements without taking a course from either LA&S or V&PA, it is highly unlikely given the high number of course offerings from LA&S and that there are only two from the College of Education at this time. Vander Schee expressed her concern that one college feels that all humanities courses belong in that college. Morris pointed out that Holly agreed with Doederlein, that students also need to take at least one course in the arts. Klonoski noted that this is a drawback to having a distributive model for general education. The GEC also discussed the fact that these catalog
revisions were made under the proper authority of both the GEC and the UCC with proper representation and agreed to not rescind those changes. However, this does not address the issue that students could get through the Humanities and Arts courses without taking a course in the arts. Discussion followed regarding the intent of the original language and the course of future action, if any, until the Task Force completes their work. Klonoski made a motion, seconded by Coller, THAT THE GEC WILL NOT RESCIND THE CATALOG REVISIONS TO THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS SECTION OF GENERAL EDUCATION, BUT WILL RECONSIDER HOW TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE COLLEGES OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS IN THE FALL. Motion passed unanimously. Gorman will communicate this decision with Deans Doederlein and Holly.

NOTE: The above section was NOT received by the UCC on April 4, 2013.

B. Bylaws Update. Birberick explained that this is on hold with the University Council. She has discussed this with University Council Executive Secretary Alan Rosenbaum. Some of the proposed revisions to the GEC bylaws, specifically items 3 and 5, approved at the October 18, 2012, meeting, are in opposition to two of the bylaws of the Undergraduate Coordinating Council: 14.5.3.3 In consultation with the colleges, to determine policy for undergraduate general education and for undergraduate studies and baccalaureate programs, and semester hour requirements for undergraduate majors and minors. and 14.5.3.5 To organize and direct the work of the standing committees of the Undergraduate Coordinating Council, to receive reports from such committees, and to render final decisions on the policy recommendations received from them. She and Rosenbaum agree that there are contradictions between the proposed revisions to the GEC bylaws and the UCC bylaws and that this will take more than minor word changes to resolve, and also that the UCC probably doesn’t need to be doing the detailed work of the GEC. The latter issue involves a more lengthy discussion, including the prospect of the GEC breaking away from the UCC. However, the proposed revisions to the GEC bylaws are still in question. Morris asked if the UCC approved of the GEC’s revisions to their bylaws and Birberick confirmed that they did. So Morris said that the revisions would be in compliance with 14.5.3.5. Discussion followed regarding whether or not the GEC should retract the revisions to the GEC bylaws or reword so that this can move forward with the University Council. Vander Schee observed that if the original GEC bylaws were retained, it would make for a better argument for becoming a stand-alone committee. Kolb noted that the existing GEC bylaws don’t give the GEC enough authority to act on behalf of the General Education program. Gorman asked what happens if the GEC does nothing at this point and Birberick responded that it would stay tabled. A brief discussion followed with GEC members agreeing to not take any action and leave the item tabled with the University Council, especially since the General Education Visioning Task Force is now beginning the work of reviewing the General Education Program.

C. Interim Reports from Political Science. The discussion of these reports was postponed due to time constraints.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 28, 2013, Altgeld 225.
Respectfully submitted by Donna Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator