GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
227th Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2016

MINUTES
Approved

Present: F. Bryan (LAS/COMS), B. Coller (EET/MEE), D. Gorman (LAS/ENGL), B. Jaffee (M. Quinlan, VPA/ART), E. Klonoski (Ex-officio, Acting Associate Vice Provost), J. Kot (LAS/FL--), B. Montgomery (HHS/FCNS), C. Parker (Ex-officio, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Outcomes, Assessment Services), A. Polansky (LAS/MATH), K. Thu (LAS/ANTH), D. Smith (Catalog Editor), C. Vander Schee (EDU/LEPF), L. Zhou (BUS/FINA)

The meeting was called to order by GEC chair Carolyn Vander Schee. She thanked Coller for stepping in during the fall and for all the work he did.

I. Adoption of Agenda
Gorman made a motion, seconded by Zhou, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 21, 2016, GEC MEETING. A explanation was made regarding the sociology course on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the November 19, 2015, GEC meeting were previously approved.

III. Announcements
A. Pathway minor. Klonoski reported that this has been put on hold. Due to the feedback from the campus community, it was clear that folks weren’t ready to take on anything else at this time. He plans to go out this spring and summer and talk to the college senates and curriculum committees, the Student Association, and to hold open forums to obtain proper feedback. Then the plan is submit the minor through the curricular process this fall (2016).

B. ARTE 109. Klonoski reminded the GEC that the School of Art revised the course description so the GEC could consider moving ARTE 109 from the society and culture knowledge domain to nature and technology. Klonoski said he spoke with the instructor of the course who said he was unsure of the statistics component of the course. So he is withdrawing the course revision and, subsequently, the request to move the course to the nature and technology knowledge domain.

IV. Old Business
A. New course applications
   1. Carried over from 11/19/15
   a) ART 101. It was reported that the PRQ at issue has been deleted through the curricular process. Coller made a motion, seconded by Thu, TO APPROVE ART 101 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. Motion passed unanimously.
b) BKST 440. Vander Schee explained the issues from the last meeting. The GEC reviewed an updated proposal. Gorman made a motion, seconded by Kot, TO APPROVE BKST 440 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed unanimously.**

c) CAHE 422. It was reported that the department still needs to submit this as a new course through the curricular process, and will wait to submit updated materials until that time.

d) LGBT 350. Vander Schee explained the issues from the last meeting. Nothing more has been received at this time. It was decided that the GEC could vote on this electronically.

e) PSYC 219. Nothing more has been received at this time.

f) SOCI 356. Nothing more has been received at this time.

g) TH-D 474. Vander Schee explained what the issues were from the last meeting. The GEC discussed a letter from the School of Theater and Dance that addresses those issues. Thu made a motion, seconded by Gorman, TO APPROVE TH-D 474 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Courses that still need to be discussed. Vander Schee presented the Qualtrics survey results and thanked Coller for setting that up.

a) ARTH 361. Thu asked about duplication of content but it was reported that this has been approved for the catalog by the CUC. Thu made a motion, seconded by Polansky, TO APPROVE ARTH 361 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed unanimously.** There was a brief discussion on whether or not this course will be a part of a Pathway. Klonoski will contact the parties involved to get this clarified.

b) ENV 303. Thu made a motion, seconded by Coller, TO APPROVE ENV 303 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed unanimously.**

c) HIST 383. Gorman presented why he felt the course should go in Society and Culture and not Creativity and Critical Analysis. Kot responded that no course needs to fit a knowledge domain completely. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Gorman, TO APPROVE HIST 383 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed with one opposition.**

d) HIST 389. Vander Schee said she felt the overall proposal was weak. Coller said that the course could be approved for society and culture rather than nature and technology. There was discussion that they need to change the wording for the signature assignment (e.g., “assigned a paper” rather than “given a paper”). Coller made a motion, seconded by Thu, TO APPROVE HIST 389 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion failed unanimously.** Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Kot, TO APPROVE HIST 389 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion failed unanimously.** Klonoski will reach out to the department to discuss with them how to strengthen this application.

e) MGMT 227. There was a brief discussion about previous concerns of the proposal. Zhou made a motion, seconded by Bryan, TO APPROVE MGMT 227 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE CREATIVITY AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Pathways Applications. Klonoski reminded the committee that seven Pathways applications
have been accepted for inclusion for fall 2016 catalog. Registration and Records now has
the list of Pathways and courses and is working on coding them in MyNIU. He explained
how it will be listed in catalog. Klonoski also mentioned an eighth proposal, Ethics and
Leadership, which Vander Schee is working on. The plan is to have that Pathway proposal
finalized and approved by the GEC this fall so it can be included in the 2017-18 catalog.
There was a discussion on how new general education courses could get in Pathways and it
was noted that part of the job description for the coordinators is to monitor what courses
should stay or go based on student interest, and which ones could be added. Kot asked about
money for coordinators and Klonoski said that the stipend is $2000 annually. Thu asked
what the term is for the coordinators and Klonoski responded that it is two years.

C. Subcommittee for GEC reorganization. It was explained that this is something that could be
worked on this spring. Klonoski said that work is being done to streamline the curricular
process. The plan is to have a Baccalaureate Curriculum Council (BCC) and the GEC would
report to that body. The BCC would be the only undergraduate university curriculum
committee.

D. Assessment. Vander Schee said that this spring the GEC should be working on developing
an assessment plan. Klonoski reported that he and Parker have begun work on a broader
assessment plan. They took rubrics for five of the student learning outcomes (SLO) and are
piloting those with several of the departments that participate in foundational studies
courses. The idea is to use that data as a baseline for achievement in foundational studies.
Parker added that in terms of developing the rubrics, the discipline experts provided input on
what should be included in the rubrics, then he and Klonoski worked on making therubric
consistent across disciplines. The rubrics are designed to be a starting point for the
disciplines so data can be meaningfully aggregated from the various disciplines. There was
discussion about how each SLO is represented through all of the general education courses.
Klonoski reported that Oral Communication has the least amount of courses counting that as
one of their SLOs. Committee members pointed out that each course could only list two
SLOs, so it’s possible many of the courses include Oral Communication. It was also pointed
out that Collaborative Learning may include Oral Communication through group
presentations. Kot asked if assessment data will be collected for general education courses
being taught this year. Klonoski said that the GEC would not be doing assessment this
academic year, but that departments with general education courses need to know that they
should still be doing some assessments. Reminders to those departments should be sent out
soon. Klonoski also said that the GEC needs to develop a rolling cycle of assessing pairs of
SLOs. It was decided that Parker and Klonoski will present to the GEC the formal process
they’ve been partaking in so far and ideas for moving forwards.

V. New Business

A. Curricular items from the colleges. Thu made a motion, seconded by Bryan, TO APPROVE
THE DELETION OF PHYS 150A. Motion passed unanimously. Thu made a motion,
seconded by Polansky, TO APPROVE THE COURSE REVISION FOR PHYS 150.
Motion passed unanimously.

B. PHYS 151. This new general education course proposal was discussed. Committee
members would like the department to resubmit using the current form so that the SLOs they
will be addressing are on file. Gorman made a motion, seconded by Thu, TO APPROVE
PHYS 151 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY,
BUT ASK THEM TO RESUBMIT ON THE CURRENT FORM. Motion passed
unanimously.
C. WGST 324 crosslisted courses (GEOG 324X and BIOS 324X). It was explained that WGST 324 has been approved for general education credit, but it is crosslisted with GEOG 324X and BIOS 324X. It was explained that these are all the same course, with students sitting in the same classroom enrolled in either WGST 324, GEOG 324X, or BIOS 324X. But there is currently no policy that automatically includes crosslisted courses into the general education program, so the GEC needs to approve GEOG 324X and BIOS 324X for general education credit. Smith reported that the director of Women’s and Gender Studies notified Biological Sciences and Geography that WGST 324 will be a general education course. But GEC members would like documentation that both departments have received this information. Kot made a motion, seconded by Polansky, TO APPROVE BIOS 324X AND GEOG 324X FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE PENDING APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND GEOGRAPHY. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Other Business.
Zhou asked GEC members for feedback on the Department of Finance proposing a course on personal finance for general education credit. Committee members responded that they felt this would be a very beneficial course for students and would support the mission of PLUS to offering courses from all the colleges.

VII. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator