

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**239<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 19, 2017**

**MINUTES**  
Approved

Present: J. Ercolani (LAS/Alt. student rep), K. Huffine (LAS/HIST), M. Lenczewski (LAS/GEOL), E. Klonoski (Ex-officio, Associate Vice Provost), L. Matuszewich (LAS/PSYC), B. Montgomery (HHS/FCNS), C. Ornelas (HHS/Student), N. Newman (LAS/Student), J. Pendergrass (BUS/OMIS), M. Pickett (Academic Advising Center), A. Polansky (LAS/MATH), M. Quinlan (VPA/ART), D. Smith (Catalog Editor), A. Stich (EDU/LEPF), Z. Wang (EET/ISYE)

The meeting was called to order by GEC Chair Polansky and introductions were made.

- I. Adoption of Agenda. Matuszewich made a motion, seconded by Lenczewski, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 19, 2017, GEC MEETING. **Motion passed by acclamation.**
- II. Approval of the September 28, 2017, minutes. Minutes were approved electronically.
- III. Announcements. There were no announcements.
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Assessment Plan. Klonoski reported that the assessment process continues. He has a graduate student assisting him in processing the data that are being submitted. He added that increasingly areas around the university are getting on board regarding submitting assessment data. He has also asked for additional data from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
  - B. Pathways Coordinators. Klonoski noted that at the last meeting he reported that Holly Jones will take over as coordinator of the Sustainability Pathway. And he recently learned that Ying Xie, who was coordinator of the Learning Pathway, is stepping aside. Wei Chen Hung will oversee that Pathway until a replacement can be found.
  - C. Pathways Minor. Klonoski reported on the feedback that he has received so far on the proposal of a Pathways Minor. There was some concern expressed at the last GEC meeting and he continued to receive other feedback. There will need to be a revised plan to take into consideration the comments he has received. Some of the concerns expressed outside of the GEC were questions about how often the Pathways courses are offered. Klonoski has the information on course offerings and will share with the GEC at the next meeting. He reported that he looked at how often courses in the minors in the College of Liberal Arts are offered. Some minors have as many as 50 or 60 offerings, where about 30% of the optional courses haven't been offered in last five and a half years. In one case over 50% of the courses listed for a minor hadn't been offered recently. He also found that there are varying degrees of coordination with the minors, with list of courses that haven't been reviewed in a number of years.

Klonoski asked GEC members to take the minor proposal back to their areas to get feedback.

He noted that he met with the advising directors and they agree that this is a workable process, i.e., that students declare the minor with their major advising offices. Klonoski also discussed the fact that there are existing minors that are similar to some of the Pathways minors. For example, in the School of Health Studies, there is a minor in Nutrition, Health, and Wellness, and there is a Pathway in Health and Wellness. So any future proposal would have to be mindful of similar minors. It may be that not all of the Pathways would be available for the minor. The impact on the interdisciplinary minors needs to be discussed. Huffine noted that there are minors that need to have a certain number of students enrolled due to the fact that they are funded through external sources. For example, the Minor in Southeast Asian Studies gets Title VI funding, which requires that a certain number of students are in that minor. She expressed concern that the Pathway Minor would compete with the minors associated with the different cultural centers, such as Women and Gender Studies, Latino/a and Latin American Studies, Black Studies, and Southeast Asian Studies. Klonoski noted that Virginia Tech is using NIU's Pathways model, but they are only rolling out two Pathways Minors each year. He invited GEC members to take a look at their program. Pickett asked if there was a way to roll out the minor for the Pathways for which there is no conflict and Klonoski replied that is something to consider. He said he will be looking at which Pathways are robust with good course offerings and which ones are too close to existing minors. Discussion followed regarding whether or not it would be awkward to have some Pathways in the minor but not others. There might be an advantage to rolling out only a few as a pilot, to test if the Pathways minor would impact other minors. Committee members thought it would be useful to see which courses from the Pathways also appear in other programs. Montgomery asked if there was a target date to get the minor approved and Klonoski replied that there is not. Too many substantial questions have arisen and those need to be sorted out.

V. New Business

- A. Course revisions—AHRS 200 and AHRS 300; and MATH 211. Smith explained that the GEC needs to approve revisions to general education courses. What needs to be evaluated is if the revisions would make the course ineligible for the general education program. It was noted that for AHRS 200 and AHRS 300 they are changing the designators to REHB. For MATH 211, they are changing the credit hours from 3 to 4. The rest of the document shows how these changes affect programs. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Lenczewski, TO APPROVE THE COURSE REVISIONS AS PRESENTED. Newman said that the changes look good. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Adjournment. Matuszewich made a motion, seconded by Quinlan, TO ADJOURN. **Motion passed by acclamation.** The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator