

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
246th Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2019

MINUTES
Approved

Present: R. Caughron (EDU/KNPE/BC), D. Gorman (LAS/ENGL/BC), E. Klonoski (Ex-officio, Associate Vice Provost), E. Kuby (LAS/HIST), L. Matuszewich (LAS/PSYC), B. Montgomery (HHS/FCNS), M. Pickett (Academic Advising Center), M. Quinlan (VPA/ART), D. Smith (Catalog Editor), R. Subramony (Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation), Z. Wang, EET/TECH

The meeting was called to order by GEC Chair Montgomery.

- I. Adoption of Agenda. Quinlan made a motion, seconded by Caughron, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 17, 2019, GEC MEETING. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- II. Approval of November 15, 2018, Minutes. Kuby made a motion, seconded by Caughron, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2018, GEC MEETING. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Announcements. Klonoski reported he received the Blackboard assessment data from last fall and will share them with the GEC.

III. Old Business

- A. Assessment Plan. There was nothing to report.
- B. Pathways and Pathways Coordinators. There was nothing to report.
- C. Coordinator needed for the Origins and Influences Pathway. Montgomery reported the individual is still interested, but she has been unable to meet with him yet.
- D. Pathways Oversight Plan. Montgomery reported she still needs to update the initial oversight plan and will work with Matuszewich on that. She also reported on two meetings that took place after the last GEC meeting. The first was with members of Registration and Records who work with MyNIU. The second was with staff from Marketing and Communications. Caughron reported on the meeting with Marketing and Communications. They discussed how to increase the visibility of the general education Pathways. However, the focus of their marketing seems to be on prospective students rather than current students. Discussion followed regarding what the GEC should do regarding marketing and what is the role of the university's Marketing and Communications department. Marketing works on prospective students and recruiting where communications is for disseminating information to the internal campus community. What is needed to increase awareness of the Pathways is communication with campus partners and students. The result of the meeting was the staff from Marketing and Communications would prepare a communication plan by the end of fall 2018 semester. However, nothing has been received. The main concern for this group was how to communicate with students on a consistent basis. Caughron stated that what he hears from students is they feel like after they've been admitted, no one cares about them.

Pickett noted the GEC needs to tell Marketing and Communications what the plan is and how it should be implemented. Matuszewich noted the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL) has their own marketing plan. She suggested the GEC could model one after OSEEL's plan. Committee members came up with suggestions for better communicating the Pathways to students, such as using UNIV 101, following up on the information presented during Orientation, and creating an interface in MyNIU (see MyNIU discussion below). Klonoski said Jennice O'Brien will help with communications, but the GEC will have to generate the content. Caughron suggested developing posters that can be placed in the residence halls and dining areas. Klonoski replied that can be done and suggested placards for dining hall tables. Pickett noted she looked at Virginia Tech and they have a good marketing plan. They use personal stories about students who have done their Pathways.

The GEC next discussed MyNIU. Klonoski said it takes four unintuitive clicks to get to any general education information. It was noted the MyNIU staff have been asked to move general education information closer to the landing page and the staff said this could be done. However, no progress has been made yet. Pickett asked what the GEC wants to communicate to students, general education broadly, or specifically the Pathways. Gorman replied one of the reasons to develop Pathways was to make NIU's general education courses more meaningful and more appealing to take at NIU versus taking them at a community college. The challenge of determining whether or not a student is intentionally attempting to complete a Pathways was discussed as was if there was a way for students to make their intentions known. The GEC also asked if there was a way to determine if there are certain Pathways students are pursuing; maybe the focus for marketing should be limited to those Pathways. The GEC discussed surveying students in Pathways courses to determine the reasons they are enrolling in those courses. Several GEC members volunteered to work on a survey as well as placards.

- E. ART 465. Application for an existing general education course to be added to a Pathway. The GEC tabled this application in November, asking the department to provide a collaborative activity. The activity was discussed. Gorman made a motion, seconded by Quinlan, TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR EXISTING GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE, ART 465, TO BE ADDED TO THE LEARNING PATHWAY. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. New Business

- A. GEOL 101. New general education course for the Sustainability Pathway. The GEC discussed the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and whether or not they match the course description. It was determined the GEC should trust the department regarding SLOs, but it's important to have an assignment that accurately assesses the SLOs. Caughron made a motion, seconded by Quinlan, TO APPROVE GEOL 101 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN AND THE SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAY. A discussion followed regarding what the GEC would like the department to provide regarding an assignment for assessment. It was recommended they determine a specific assignment now to assess the SLOs as it will be easier to gather the data. A friendly amendment was made to the motion to include the recommendation. **Motion passed unanimously as amended.**
- B. GEOL 303/304. New general education course applications not for a Pathway. It was noted the signature assignment for GEOL 304 is confusing. It was suggested the application be sent back to the department to align the lab with the lecture. Kuby pointed out the lecture and lab have different SLOs. Caughron made a motion, seconded by Quinlan, TO

APPROVE GEOL 303 AND GEOL 304 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN THE NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. It was decided the department should be asked to be sure they can collect data that assess the SLOs selected. **Motion passed unanimously.**

C. ECON 186. New general education course application not for a Pathway. Caughron made a motion, seconded by Gorman, TO APPROVE ECON 186 FOR GENERAL EDUCATION IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE DOMAIN. **Motion passed unanimously.**

V. Catalog changes. Smith explained the changes from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences meeting #9 are changes to STAT courses and the changes from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences #11 are changes to WGST and LGBT courses to the WGSS designator (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies). Caughron made a motion, seconded by Kuby, TO APPROVE THE COURSE REVISIONS FROM CLAS #9. **Motion passed unanimously.** Caughron made a motion, seconded by Gorman, TO APPROVE THE COURSE REVISIONS FROM CLAS #11. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. by acclamation.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator