

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
243rd Meeting
Thursday, September 27, 2018

MINUTES
Approved

Present: B. Aranda (EDU/C&I), R. Caughron (EDU/KNPE/BC), D. Gorman (LAS/ENGL/BC), L. Hedin (EDU/SEED/BC), E. Klonoski (Ex-officio, Associate Vice Provost), L. Matuszewich (LAS/PSYC), B. Montgomery (HHS/FCNS), J. Pendergrass (BUS/OMIS), M. Pickett (Academic Advising Center), D. Smith (Catalog Editor), R. Subramony (Office of Assessment Services)

The meeting was called to order by Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Curriculum Klonoski in the absence of a chair.

- I. Introductions. Introductions were made.
- II. Adoption of Agenda. Caughron made a motion, seconded by Montgomery, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2018, GEC MEETING. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- III. Elect Chair. Klonoski gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the GEC chair. Montgomery volunteered and was elected chair by acclamation.
- IV. Approval of the April 19, 2018, minutes. Minutes from the April 19, 2018, GEC meeting were approved electronically.
- V. Announcements.
 - A. Bylaws. Klonoski pointed out the representation of the GEC from the bylaws. He said that he is working with Student Association to generate student involvement. It's important to have student representation since the work the GEC does, as well as the Baccalaureate Council (BC), directly affects students. Klonoski went over the duties of the GEC and made special note that the GEC can make recommendations to BC for approval, but it doesn't have authority to make decisions. Those decisions have to be approved by the BC. Klonoski gave an overview of the general education program, including the history and process of how Academics PLUS was developed. He provided details of the program including what kinds of courses are found in foundational studies and the three knowledge domains: creativity and critical analysis, nature and technology, and society and culture. He noted some of the changes that allow for more flexibility, including less hours required for general education and allowing double credit for courses in the major. Klonoski described the pathways and how they work.

Hedin asked if the Writing Infused courses fit into general education. Klonoski responded they could fit in anywhere. The Writing Infused and the Human Diversity Requirement courses are baccalaureate requirements so they are outside the purview of the GEC.

Caughron asked if advisors understand the general education program and Pickett replied that they do. However, talking about the pathways is more difficult. It largely depends on the major; some majors are more prescriptive than others and have less flexibility for course

choice. Gorman said the idea of pathways goes back to when the general education task force began. Students were asked their opinions of general education and one of the things they said was they were unhappy about how general education courses are random and don't tie together. The pathways group courses together around specific themes. Discussion followed on the perception many students have of general education. There was a discussion on how to better train advisors in the general education program. Montgomery asked if the university was at the point where someone could have graduated under the new general education program and Klonoski replied no.

- B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Structure. Klonoski explained how the curricular committee structure has changed in last few years, including the fact the Baccalaureate Council is the merging of three other committees and the GEC reports to the BC.

VI. Old Business

- A. Assessment Plan. Klonoski reported the General Education Assessment Plan can be found in the GEC OneDrive group [in a folder titled Assessment Documents]. It provides a history of the shift in assessment of the general education program from a cyclical review to use of new rubrics that can be accessed through Blackboard. The new data are easily aggregated for various purposes and can be shared with faculty. Subramony gave an overview of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) review and pointed the GEC to several parts of the Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation web page, where important information can be found. Subramony also made note of the University Writing Project (UWP) and asked the GEC for volunteers to participate. The UWP is a good source of assessment data for writing skills.
- B. Pathways Coordinators. Klonoski will be arranging a meeting with the pathways coordinators to provide them with data they need. He added that it would be helpful if the GEC was more involved with the coordinators. At minimum, the coordinators should be invited to an upcoming GEC meeting. Klonoski reported that of the seven pathways, four are running well; the coordinators are in constant contact with their faculty. He added that the GEC should do an assessment of where the pathways are and assess how viable each one is and if any changes need to be made.
- C. Pathways Minor. Klonoski reported he has been gathering feedback on a minor for the pathways. Legitimate concerns were raised by faculty and administrators across campus, which included the impact of a pathways minor on other minors and where the minor would be housed.

VII. New Business. No new business.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Smith, Catalog Editor/Curriculum Coordinator