

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
256th Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2020

MINUTES

Present: E. Klonoski (AVP), R. Caughron (BC, Chair), J. Hathaway (BC), C. Maher (BC), J. Pendergrass (BUS), P. Smith (EDU), R. Sinko (EET), B. Montgomery (HHS), V. Garver (LAS/H), M. Pickett (Director Academic Advising Center), D. Halverson (CC/CE)

The meeting was called to order by Rod Caughron, Chair. Caughron stated the end goal for this meeting was to provide a framework for the Pathways to present to Vice Provost Ghrayeb. The GEC for the academic year 2020-2021 will need to complete this work.

I. Adoption of Agenda: Montgomery made a motion for adoption. Pendergrass seconded with no discussion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

II. Approval of Minutes: The 03.19.2020 minutes were approved via email by quorum.

III. Announcements:

A. This is the last meeting of the GEC for the academic year 2019-2020.

IV. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

V. Old Business

A. Continued discussion of the Pathways.

1. Discussion of the Faculty/Chair Survey results.

GEC takeaways from the survey:

- Faculty/Chair buy in of the proposed pilot program will take an intentional effort by the GEC. This will necessitate establishing a good line of communication and creating a sense of joint venture with faculty/chairs.
- Aspects of the PLUS program structure may need to be addressed to increase CLAS faculty/chair buy in. In particular, the lack of a lab requirement was an area the GEC felt may need to be re-visited.
- Marketing to increase awareness was unanimously concluded to be an area to address as the pilot is structured.
- Highlighting the intellectual values that drive the Pathways was thought to be another key feature when communicating with faculty/chairs.
- Bringing the academic advisors in to the pilot formation equation was also deemed to be a key for success.

2. Discussion of the Sub-committees

a. Coordination of Memorandum of Understanding Sub-committee

- Stakeholders were defined as; students, faculty, families and parents, potential employers, and academic advisors.
- Potential ways to reach stakeholders were discussed. Engagement methods such as online video programming, including Pathways alumni in the outreach, and partnering with potential employers in the DeKalb area.
- Some of the intellectual values the Pathways need to address were discussed. Those were; communication skills, problem solving skills, teamwork skills, and logistics skills.

b. Parameters Sub-committee

- This sub-committee presented their conclusions to the GEC.
- The GEC should work with faculty/chairs in the course selection process to help to build buy in while structuring the pilot program.
- Structuring with more online course options, as part of the framework, will be advantageous for engagement.
- Curricular Deans can also be an important stakeholder for success.
- Determining who many students can be successfully managed in the pilot will be an important metric in building the framework. This number will determine how many courses should be included in the pilot.

3. Additional takeaways from the discussion of Pathways

- It is likely that the Pathways pilot program will be jointly coordinated a sub-committee of the GEC and the Associate Vice Provost's office.
- The number of Pathways at three was approved in the 03.19.2020 GEC meeting.
- Targeted marketing should be used to market the pilot effectively. Pickett **made a motion**, that while the pilot is available to all interested students, the GEC should concentrate marketing efforts to 1. Undecided students in CLAS. 2. CLAS as a college. 3. Pre-health students in CHHS. And 4. CEDU. This was **seconded** by Pendergrass and **APPROVED unanimously**.
- Klonoski provided a written summary of the idea discussed at the GEC 03.19.2020 meeting of aligning the retained Pathways with larger NIU initiatives. Hathaway made a **motion**, to vote on the written proposal as follows: **1.** Sustainability, in support of the Innovation Network with U of I, targeting food systems, water resources, and environmental change. **2.** Health and Wellness in support of the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability, that will work to secure a sustainable future for the state of Illinois and to prepare students for careers in health care. **3.** Social Justice and Diversity, in alignment with NIU's high profile commitment to equity and inclusion. This was **seconded** by Garver and **APPROVED unanimously**.
- Pendergrass **made a motion** to allow the GEC to create a memo for Vice Provost Ghrayeb on the results of the Pathways work from academic year 2019-2020 and providing the framework recommended for the Pathways moving forward. This was **seconded** by Pickett and **APPROVED unanimously**.
- It was determined that Caughron and Klonoski would create this memo and the GEC would vote on this electronically.

VI. Adjournment – Pickett called for a motion to adjourn at 2:12 pm. This motion was seconded by Maher. The motion was **APPROVED unanimously**.

The GEC will vote electronically on the memorandum for Vice Provost Ghrayeb and does not meet again until academic year 2020-2021.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Halverson, Curriculum Coordinator/ Catalog Editor.