

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
250th Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2019

MINUTES

Present: R. Caughron (BC), J. Hathaway (BC), C. Maher (BS), J. Pendergrass (BUS), R. Sinko (EET), B. Montgomery (HHS), S. Sharp (LAS/SS), E. Kuby (LAS/H), M. Pickett (Academic Advising Center), R. Subramony (AVP/Acad Assessment), O. Ghrayeb (VP/Ugrad Education), D. Halverson(Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor)

The meeting was called to order by Omar Ghrayeb.

- I. Introduction of members:** Ghrayeb facilitated the introductions.
- II. Adoption of Agenda:** Caughron made a motion for adoption. Pendergrass seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- III. Election of Chair:** Montgomery nominated Rod Caughron to be Chair for the 2019-20 academic year. **Unanimously supported** and Caughron accepted.
- IV. Assistant Chair:** Halverson posed question in regards to assistant chair. Tenured members did not recall ever having an assistant chair. Kuby agreed to act as assistant chair for fall term if needed. Halverson confirmed with Ed Klonoski that no assistant chair sits on the committee. Halverson informed Kuby, via email, that services would not be required.
- V. Approval of Minutes:** The April 19, 2019 minutes were approved by the 2018-2019 General Education Committee.
- VI. Announcements**
 - A. Bylaws – Ghrayeb informed that bylaws were available in the electronically distributed documents.
- VII. Committee Focus for Semester**
 - A. Structure for Pathways – Ghrayeb presented the issues that the committee needs to address for the academic year.
 1. Review of current Pathways structure – The discussion centered on the following issues for building a comprehensive oversight, accountability, and assessment framework.
 - a. Student completion of Pathways and the factors that limit engagement.
 - b. The intention on the part of students to engage versus happenstance completion.
 - c. The possibility that reduction of Pathways options could impact engagement and intentionality.
 - d. The role that management and oversight could play in the overall success of the Pathways program.
 - e. What forms of oversight might assist with the end goals and what should the GEC involvement in oversight be?

- f. The utility of the current Coordinator structure in intentionality and engagement.
- g. Does the alignment between the general education Domains and the Pathways need to be re-assessed?
- h. Role of enrollment in offering courses and ability of students to complete the Pathways involving courses with limited availability.
- i. Ghrayeb provided details of course rotation schedules and how enrollment impacts this rotation. This is both a financial and market value issue. Student interest – as gauged by enrollment - drives course offerings and the goal is to do what is in the best interest of students.
- j. Ghrayeb also suggested that the committee look to graduation and transcript notion data to help them evaluate the Pathways.
- k. Discussion of how online course offerings could increase engagement and intentionality with the Pathways.
- l. Ghrayeb provided information on what is currently happening with the plan to offer more general education offerings online. It was noted that the online general education offerings must meet the needs of NIU students.
- m. Several members of the council questioned the value of the Pathways and were grateful for the opportunity to study this issue. Members were also grateful for the reassurance from Ghrayeb that this review must be a data driven project and that the committee will have the resources and support to do the work.

VIII. New Business

- A. Non-pathways course proposal HIST 323 – Sharp made a motion to table for more time to review. Pendergrass seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IX. Adjournment

- A. Caughron concluded business. Montgomery made a motion for adjournment. Sharp seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2019.

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