

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
251th Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2019

MINUTES

Present: R. Caughron (BC, Chair), J. Hathaway (BC), C. Maher (BS), J. Pendergrass (BUS), R. Sinko (EET), B. Montgomery (HHS), S. Sharp (LAS/SS), E. Kuby (LAS/H), K. Kaminski (Student/ CLAS), M. Pickett (Academic Advising Center), C. Zack (Designee for AVP/Academic Assessment), E. Klonoski (AVP/Academic Affairs), D. Halverson (Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor), A. Byrd (Guest/Registration and Records), A. Radasanu (Guest/Acting Director, Honors Program), D. Ballantine (Guest/Associate Dean, CLAS)

The meeting was called to order by Rod Caughron, Chair.

- I. **Introduction of Guests:** Caughron facilitated the introductions. Radasanu and Ballantine presented the proposal from the University Honors Program. The discussion focused on the mechanism proposed to gain approval for qualified Honors Seminars to be submitted to the GEC for consideration as General Education courses.

The logistics of how the proposed course designators would work from a Registration and Records perspective was discussed; with Byrd providing explanation and expertise on this issue.

Issues in regards to possible financial aid impact for repeated courses, designating credit for the college sponsoring the course, recruiting faculty to teach the courses, proper tagging of the course sections with Registration and Records, and other administrative items were discussed.

Klonoski stated that the proposal was structured to meet multiple requirements for students with curricular innovation and flexibility that is critical for meeting the needs of NIU students. However, Klonoski felt that, prior to going before the Baccalaureate Council, it would be necessary for the Honors Program to create a fuller proposal that addressed the Registration and Records issues in more detail. Klonoski and Byrd offered to meet with Radasanu and Ballantine to work with them on these issues.

The vote has been tabled until the final proposal is submitted and that version will be voted on electronically. The committee feels it is necessary to get Registration and Records confirmation that the program is feasible from the back end before the official vote. Caughron called for a motion; Sharp made the motion, Pendergrass seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- II. **Adoption of Agenda:** Montgomery made a motion for adoption. Hathaway seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- III. **Approval of Minutes:** The September 19, 2019 minutes were presented for approval. Montgomery made a motion, Kuby seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- IV. **Announcements**

- V. Committee Focus for Semester:** Caughron and Klonoski presented summary of the General Education Program 2017 report. The focus was on the current Pathways structure. Caughron noted that three options are available to the committee, keep the 7 Pathways in place, reduce the number of the Pathways available, or discontinue the Pathways program entirely. Klonoski reinforced the student benefits of the Pathways and provided the history of their development.

A sub-committee framework for the assessment of the effectiveness and the utilization of the Pathways was discussed and four sub-committees were formed. The date of November 7, 2019 for the first sub-committee feedback was established.

- A. Data Review – this committee will review and visualize the 2017 report data. It will also look at issues of intentionality and online or hybrid growth potential. Pendergrass, Sharp, Kaminski, and Sinko volunteered for this work.
- B. General Education Course Analysis – this committee will review past performance of courses, create a framework for course analysis within the General Education program - based on correlation with the baccalaureate student learning outcomes. Helping to focus a value structure for the committee about the role it plays in SLO for students. This is a program that impacts every graduate of NIU and therefore the process of selection needs to be intentional and rubric driven. Montgomery and Maher volunteered for this work.
- C. Pathways coordinator role review –this committee will conduct interviews with the current coordinators. This will provide data about how the coordinators see their role and how this maps to the current rubric for the coordinators. Klonoski and Caughron volunteered for this work; with the caveat that the interview schedule will be published and anyone can join an interview by notifying Jeanne Ratfield at jrat@niu.edu.
- D. Pathways coordinator role review – this committee will build a framework for responsibility and accountability for the coordinators. The outcome of the coordinator interviews will help to guide this committee. Pickett and Hathaway volunteered for this work.

VI. New Business

- A. Non-pathways course proposal HIST 323 – This proposal was withdrawn via email by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Caughron concluded business. Montgomery made a motion for adjournment. Sharp seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019.

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