

## GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**November 19, 2020  
12:30 – 1:23 p.m.  
Teams Virtual Meeting**

### MINUTES

Present: O. Ghrayeb (SVP, Undergraduate Education), R. Caughron (BC, Chair), A. Schatteman (BC), M. Myles (BC), R. Sinko (EET), M. Cooke (HHS), S. Sharp (LAS/SS), L. Sunderlin (LAS/ NS), C. Abreu (LAS/H), B. Broom (VPA), S. Estes (Director Academic Advising, LAS), J. Lung (LAS, Student), R. Subramony (AVP Academic Assessment), C. Zack (Academic Assessment), D. Halverson (CC/CE)

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

**I. Adoption of Agenda:** Caughron called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Myles so moved and this was seconded by Sharp with no discussion; the motion was **APPROVED unanimously.**

**II. Announcements: None**

**III. New Business:** Discussion led by Ghrayeb

A. Discussion to begin assessing the current state of the General Education Program

1. What is the assessment philosophy of the GEC?

a. General Education is composed of four elements at NIU.

- Foundational Studies
  - o Writing Requirements
  - o Oral Communication Requirements
  - o Quantitative Literacy Requirements
- Creativity and Critical Analysis Domain
- Nature and Technology Domain
- Society and Culture Domain

B. The General Education Committee has defined, and NIU has adopted the current policy that, General Education is a necessary sub-set of requirements that must be completed to be awarded a bachelors degree at NIU. **LINK**

1. The current student learning outcomes (SLO) for the General Education program are tied to the eight Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes: **LINK**

2. At issue is; should this be the case if general education is a subset of the requirements for a B.S. or B.A.? **This is the first task of the GEC to determine.**

- If yes, then the current requirement is to map to two of the eight SLOs. Should this be re-visited?
- If no, what sub-set of the current 8 SLOs are should be used to assess general education courses? It is also a possibility to create completely new SLOs for general education courses. *A decision must be made by the committee on this issue.*
- Once the general education SLOs are in place. A determination needs to be

made as to the number of SLOs that each course must map to.

**C. The second task is to determine an assessment model for general education courses.**

1. A sub-committee of the General Education Committee was formed to meet with Ritu Subramony, the Director of Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation, (AAE) and Carrie Zack, the Assistant Director of AAE. Rod Caughron, Alicia Schatteman, and Peet Smith volunteered to join this sub-committee. It will meet twice monthly and assist in preparation with the required general education assessment plan to be presented to the University Assessment Panel.
2. The Sub-Committee will report their findings to the full GEC at each step in this process and the full GEC will make the final determinations as to structure of the model for accessing the general education courses.

D. It was determined that regardless of the assessment model utilized, AAE would be responsible for data gathering and aggregation. The GEC will be responsible for evaluation of the data and feedback to the departments. Ghayeb noted that the philosophy of the assessment plan is important for evaluation. The philosophy should:

1. Be intentional planned so that the goals can be communicated.
2. Provide Feedback to instructors.
3. Be a vehicle for continuous improvement - a change management motivator, not a punitive act.
4. Create a stronger and tighter general education program for students.

**IV. Old Business: None**

**V. Adjournment** – Caughron called for a motion to adjourn at 1:38 pm. Estes so moved and Myles seconded; the motion was **APPROVED unanimously**.

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