

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 24, 2022
Meeting 6
12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Teams Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Voting Members Present:	R. Caughron (BC, Chair), A. Schatteman (BC), A. Setterstrom (BUS), S. DeSpain (EDU), J. Tan (EET), M. Cooke (HHS), S. Sharp (LAS/SS), C. Abreu (LAS/H), B. Broom (VPA), S. Estes (Director Academic Advising, LAS), A. Navarrete (LAS, Student), F. Asbrand (HHS, Student)
Ex Officio Members Present:	R. Subramony (Director, Academic Assessment), C. Zack (Academic Assessment), D. Halverson (CC/CE)
Observer:	Carol McFarland McKee

I. Meeting Call to Order by Chair, Rod Caughron

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Caughron called for a motion to adopt the agenda, Setterstrom so moved and this was seconded by Estes. The motion to adopt was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

III. Minutes from 02.17.2022 are approved and in Teams for review.

IV. Announcements

- A. The final meeting of the General Education Committee for the academic year 2021-22 will be on April 21, 2022
- B. Returning members for the academic year 2022-23 are: Andy Setterstrom, Marcia Cooke, Shane Sharp, and Christina Abreu

V. New Business

- A. Foundational Studies Quantitative Literacy Requirements – Halverson updated the GEC on the status of the change due to the Math Competency Exam inclusion and the removal of ALEKS as meeting the requirement.
- B. Pathways Revision Proposal Status Update – Halverson updated the GEC on the status of Provost review of the proposal. Gh-rayeb will update more next meeting. The negative impact of including all Pathways on the progress report was discussed and the need to make this optional on the report moving forward if the Pathways revision is approved.

VI. Old Business

- A. Caughron called for a motion to include a general education syllabus statement for all general education courses. Sharp so moved and this was seconded by Cooke. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**. Sharp expressed

support for a statement conclusion with suggestions for improving clarity of the statement. Estes provided additional edits to improve transparency for students.

Caughron called for a motion to adopt the text of the syllabus statement presented. Shane so moved and Cooke seconded. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The following syllabus statement was **approved** for inclusion on all general education courses:

As part of the general education requirements, this course may fulfill (_____) credit hours in the Knowledge Domain of (_____) towards the minimum of 21 hours across the three domains.

For more information on General Education Requirements please see your advisor or review the catalog [requirements page](#).

Halverson indicated that a query in MyNIU by department, domain, and student learning outcome could be done and provided to Department Chairs so that they have this information about their courses.

Schatteman proposed that this statement should be added before or after the course description so that it is not buried in the syllabus. Sharp sits on the Faculty Senate and if Ghrayeb determines this should be approved at FS, Sharp offered to present.

Subramony presented the need for general education assessment data to include during the Higher Learning Commission site visit in 2024. This data is needed for accreditation so that NIU can assess the actions taken to improve the general education program in terms of student growth. Data is critical in the process of this assessment to deliver quality programs for students. Additionally, data is needed to help the GEC assess if the domain re-alignment framework has benefit to the program.

The committee began discussing possible assessment framework. Sharp presented the concept of collecting data by a stratified random process by domain. Schatteman presented concerns from a Chair's perspective on a random process. Given workload, having a schedule for assessment, more effectively meets a chair's need as it easier to communicate to those teaching a department's general education courses. This will result in a better process in the department and therefore better data outcomes.

Caughron questioned if this will be a pilot or final assessment framework. Subramony indicated the initial data collection will provide a baseline for what works and will help to build the final assessment plan for the general education program. If the GEC waits until a formal framework is proposed to collect data there will be the following negative outcomes:

1. There will continue to be lack of data for the program and this will negatively impact the HLC site visit.
2. Departments and faculty/instructors will be less inclined to engage with data collection if the GEC continues to go without collecting data.
3. Student growth from engaging with the program will continued in the *undetermined status* because data is not being collected.
4. The success of the domain re-alignment will remain undetermined until departments and faculty/instructors engage with it.

Caughron called for the Assessment Sub-committee to meet again to work on a process for collecting data retroactively from this semester and for any summer general education courses. Schatteman and Sharp agreed to meet. The sub-committee will present their ideas at the next meeting for a vote. Sharp stressed that the data collection communication request needs to stress how the data will be utilized, given that many faculty feel punitive actions are possible when data is collected on their courses. Sharp also discussed the need of ease of collection. The easier the data collection process is, the more data the GEC will received.

No actions were taken on the application completion process or the General Education webpages. For a summary of the tasks for completion please reference the GEC Minutes from 01.20.2022. All of the tasks need to be provided at one time given DoIt workload. Marketing and Communications will need to assist with the webpage revisions.

- B. No conversation occurred on the 300/400 level courses and PRQ/CRQ courses. This item is tabled until Ghayeb can be included in the conversation. Spring 2022 General Education Excel with PRQ data included is available in Teams for review.

VII. Adjournment

Caughron called for a motion to adjourn. Estes so moved and this was seconded by Cooke. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.

The next meeting of the General Education Committee is on April 21, 2022 at 12:30 pm via Teams.