

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

October 21, 2021
12:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Teams Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Voting Members Present: R. Caughron (BC, Chair), A. Schatteman (BC), S. Ehsani (BC), A. Setterstrom (BUS), S. DeSpain (EDU), R. Sinko (EET), M. Cooke (HHS), S. Sharp (LAS/SS), C. Abreu (LAS/H), S. Estes (Director Academic Advising, LAS), B. Broom (VPA)

Ex Officio Members Present: O. Ghrayeb (Senior Vice Provost), R. Subramony (AVP Academic Assessment), C. Zack (Academic Assessment), D. Halverson (CC/CE)

I. Meeting Call to Order by Chair, Rod Caughron

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 due to technical issue for Halverson, who is responsible for the meeting coordination and minutes.

II. Adoption of Agenda

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

III. Minute Approval from September 16, 2021

Caughron called for a motion to approve the minutes from the first meeting of the General Education Committee for academic year 2021-2022. Estes so moved and this was seconded by Setterstrom. The motion to approve the minutes from 09.16.2021 was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**, with a correction by Schatteman in regards to the date of voting for the SLO re-alignment framework.

IV. Final Questions and Voting on New General Education Structure

The re-alignment of the student learning outcomes to the General Education Knowledge Domains was up for voting and discussion. Caughron called for a motion to consider the following framework for both evaluation of new general education courses and for future assessment structure. Schatteman so moved and this was seconded by Cooke.

Creativity and Critical Analysis

Core SLO:

- Critical Thinking

Elective SLO (chose one):

- Quantitative and Qualitative Reasoning
- Intercultural Competencies

Nature and Technology

Core SLO:

- Human Life and Natural World

Elective SLO (chose one):

- Global Interconnections and Interdependencies
- Critical Thinking

Society and Culture

Core SLO:

- Intercultural Competencies

Elective SLO (chose one):

- Global Interconnections and Interdependencies
- Critical Thinking

Estes mentioned that the catalog language may need to be revised to reflect this format. Ghrayeb concurred that only one section will need to be updated and indicated this language will be crafted for approval by the GEC. Caughron indicated that student learning outcomes should be indicated on the course syllabus for student transparency.

Sharp raised concerns with the framework, and Sinko also discussed possible issues. Ghrayeb summarized the rationale behind the framework and having a core outcome for each Knowledge Domain. Subramony commented that from an assessment process this is a new structure and user feedback may necessitate re-visiting which rubrics are secondary for each Domain. Sinko discussed the need to provide more flexibility for the secondary rubric as well. Caughron stressed that this is a starting framework and it will provide a platform to begin the assessment work. Schatteman stressed that the GEC is not trying to fit the new framework to what is currently in place. The framework will be used to move forward for new course application evaluation and an assessment process to be formulated from the framework.

The motion to adopt was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**. This framework will move forward to the Baccalaureate Council for final approval.

V. New Business

- A. Review of application for COMS 260 and JOUR 260X – Social Media Communication. Caughron called for a motion to approve the application of JOUR 260X under the Society and Culture Domain. Estes so moved and this was seconded by Schatteman. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Review of application for UBUS 485 – Business Consulting Project. Caughron called for a motion to approve the application of UBUS 485 under the Creativity and Critical Analysis Domain. Sharp so moved and this was seconded by Setterstrom. Estes raised concerns about the course content and enrollment restrictions meeting general education course criteria. Ehsani clarified the requirements for limiting the enrollment and the structure of the course. Schatteman concurred that while this is an amazing course, it does not fit the criteria of a general education course. The motion was **REJECTED UNANIMOUSLY**.

- B. Ghrayeb presented the BRAVEN course to begin the conversation about general education potential. Concerns and questions were raised and the GEC determined that further discussion is warranted.
- C. Caughron provided a summary of a Pathways conversation he had with Andre Denham from the University of Alabama. U of A is using a bottom up process with students engaged in the formative stage and they desired feedback from NIU on how the program was implemented here.

D. Halverson informed that as of October 15, 2021 General Education Committee members can nominate students to sit on the committee for the remainder of the academic year.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. Adjournment

Caughron called for a motion to adjourn. Estes so moved and this was seconded by Setterstrom. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

The next meeting of the General Education Committee is on November 18, 2021 at 12:30 pm via Teams.