

OFFICIAL MINUTES

General Education Committee Meeting 3rd Meeting/Academic Year 2023- 2024

Teams

Thursday, January 18, 2024

12:30p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Caughron, R. (CEDU) Ehsani, S. (CBUS), Takai, S.(CEET) McGowan, B. (Libraries) Lowe, C. (Advising) Arnold. S. (CLAS) Brown. D. (CLAS) Jefferson. H. (Student Representative), Sharp, S. (CLAS), Baker, S. (CEDU)

Voting Members Absent: Saravanan, A. (CHHS), Wang, J. (CVPA)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: A. Schatteman (Vice Provost Academic Affairs); Buhrow, A. (Assistant Vice Provost); Gawron, I. (Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor). Pillsbury, B. (Career Services).

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent: N/A

- I. Meeting Call to Order by Chair** - With a quorum present, Chair Caughron called the meeting to order at approximately 12:40 p.m.
- II. Adoption of Agenda –**
 - A. Lowe motioned to adopt the agenda. Arnold seconded. All voted in favor.
- III. Approval of Minutes from 11/16/2023–**
 - A. Minutes were approved electronically via email.
- IV. Announcements**
 - A. No Announcements
- V. DISCUSSION AGENDA –**
 - A. BKST 402 – Society and Culture
 - Discussion occurred on tabling the proposal given it is a 400-level course and the ongoing discussion concerning philosophy of Gen Ed and the mechanics of gen ed (such as not allowing 300 or 400-level courses count for Gen Ed). There was concern about potentially

approving a 300 or 400-level course for Gen Ed and then removing Gen Ed from the course the following catalog year. This discussion included: Caughron, Schatteman. Additional discussion on the proposal occurred with concerns about copy/paste errors (the same information being duplicated) and that the proposal should be cleaned up in general. The discussion continued on a general informational update on relevant pages about postponing review/approvals of 300/400 level courses for Gen Ed. Sharp motioned to table BKST 402 for review at a later date. Lowe seconded. All voted in favor.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion and Philosophy and Principles of NIU General Education

- Caughron and Schatteman led the discussion. Discussion topics included: The survey sent out to the campus community, general philosophical topics around general education, people's thoughts on the process in discussing the general education philosophy so far, and other technical components of the information gathering process (such as data results and best ways to have representation in the data/results). The discussion did not necessarily conclude anything particularly but did give a general timeline of ideally less than two years to fully update the catalog. This discussion included: Schatteman, Caughron, Buhrow, Sharp, Lowe, Arnold, McGowan, Jefferson, Gawron

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adult Learning Needs for General Education

- This topic was tabled given representative(s) to discuss the topic were unable to attend this meeting.

B. UNIV Discussion

- Schatteman introduced the topic where leadership at the university expressed interest to better support students career development skills. UNIV courses, such as 301, are existing courses that aim to do that already. However, the discussion primarily focused on whether or not a career development course should be a new university required course and/or should it be a part of the General Education program. Historical background was given concerning UNIV 301 being rejected for Gen Ed within the last few years. There was not an overall conclusion, but discussion would continue at a later meeting. This discussion included: Schatteman, Caughron, Pillsbury, Gawron, Lowe, McGowan.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT –

Meeting adjourned approximately 2:30