

## OFFICIAL MINUTES

### General Education Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting/Academic Year 2023-2024 Teams

Thursday, March 21, 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), Saravanan, A. (CHHS),

Voting Members Absent: 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), Radasanu, A. (Honors Director)

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

- I. Meeting Call to Order by Chair** - With a quorum present, Alicia Schatteman called the meeting to order.
- II. Adoption of Agenda –**
  - A.** Lowe motioned to approve the agenda. McGowan seconded. All voted in favor.
- III. Approval of Minutes –**
  - A.** Sharp motioned to approve the 1-18-2023 minutes. Arnold seconded. All voted in favor.
- IV. Announcements**
  - A.** Buhrow gave HLC updates given their recent visit to NIU. The updates, overall, indicated that the visit went well and much of the goal is to instill confidence in NIU making progress in areas of general education, assessment, and other areas related to this.
- V. DISCUSSION AGENDA –**
  - A. HIST 140, 141, & COMS 240**

Schatteman led the discussion where the proposals were generally grouped together given they were removing Gen Ed designation. Schatteman indicated that she ran some numbers on course offerings, etc. for Gen Ed courses and have been reaching out to departments about courses not offered for ~4+ years. McGowan motioned to approved the proposals. Ehsani seconded. All voted in favor.

- B. HON 300 – Human Genetics and Evolution**
- C. HON 420 – History of Probability**
- D. HON 300 – Public Service Academy: Pathways to Service, Community and Civic Engagement**
  - Schatteman led the discussion and gave a brief explanation on the usual annual review of new HON sections that would count for general education. Sharp motioned to approve the HON courses. Lowe seconded. All voted in favor.

#### **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Discussion, Philosophy and Principles of NIU General Education**
- **Learning Outcomes of General Education Courses**

Given the Unfinished Business and New Business items related to each other, they were generally grouped together. Schatteman led the discussion that primarily covered: The fundamental document with principles/goals of the general education program; discussion on those individual principles, and how they fit into the knowledge domains. Discussion included: Schatteman, Sharp, Buhrow, Takai, Jefferson, Brown, Gawron, Lowe, Caughron, McGowan . Additional discussion occurred giving recommendations to reword some of the principles given they felt a bit generic or inconsistent (such as listing every 4 years on one principles, but not giving a timeframe for a different principle); the exact mechanics of the principles (such as if a course will be “automatically dropped” from the catalog if not offered for 4 years); offered versus offered with enrollment difference; shared experience versus other principles/goals

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- **4 & Out Procedure/Policy for General Education**  
See discussion above

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT –**