

## OFFICIAL MINUTES

### General Education Committee Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting/Academic Year 2023-2024 Teams

Thursday, April 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), Sharp, S. (CLAS), Baker, S. (CEDU)

Voting Members Absent: Saravanan, A. (CHHS), Wang, J. (CVPA). Davis, S. (CVPA), Jefferson, H. (Student Representative)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: A. Schatteman (Vice Provost Academic Affairs); Gawron, I. (Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor), Rhode, Jason (Associate Vice Provost), Griegoliet, M. (Career Services), Buhrow, A. (Assistance Vice Provost)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent:

- 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 adopt the agenda. McGowan seconded. The agenda was adopted
- III. Approval of Minutes –**
  - A.** Previous minutes (March GEC) were approved via email.
- IV. Announcements**
  - A.** Buhrow gave a brief update on the HLC visit report and thanked everyone for their assistance when the HLC was here.
  - B.** Unfinished Business was handled before the Discussion Agenda to inform the discussion for the proposals.
- V. DISCUSSION AGENDA –**

1. **College of Business – No Curricular Items**
2. **College of Education – No Curricular Items**
3. **College of Engineering – No Curricular Items**
4. **College of Health and Human Sciences –**
  1. **HDFS 284 – Society and Culture**  
Sharp motioned to approve HDFS 284. Ehsani seconded. There was a brief discussion on the course having prerequisites. Discussion included: Caughron, Schatteman, McGowan, Takai, Sharp. The proposal was

approved for General Education designation. 4 yes, 3 no. 1 abstain.

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences –**

1. ***ENGL 311 – Creativity and Critical Analysis***

Sharp motioned to approve ENGL 311. Ehsani seconded. Discussion included: If the syllabus had learning outcomes listed, how the syllabus copy is different than the catalog copy, gen ed as a recruitment tool for a program, which is generally not true, if a 300-level survey course is general enough for general education, and overall concerns if the course would count for Gen Ed. Discussion included: Sharp, Schatteman, Lowe, Caughron, McGowan. The proposal was not approved. 3 Yes, 4 No, 1 Abstain.

2. ***ENGL 363 – Creativity and Critical Analysis***

Sharp motioned to approve ENGL 363. Ehsani seconded. Discussion topics included: If the catalog copy matched the syllabus copy; Unclear learning outcomes. The discussion included: Caughron, Schatteman, Buhrow. The proposal was approved: 5 Yes, 2 No, 2 Abstain.

3. ***ENGL 381 – Creativity and Critical Analysis***

Sharp motioned to approve ENGL 381. Ehsani seconded. Discussion topics included: if the catalog copy matched the syllabus copy; and if the PDFs are free or needing to be bought by students. The proposal was approved. 6 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain.

4. ***ENGL 318 – Gen Ed Removal***

6. **College of Visual and Performing Arts –**

1. ***ARTH 340 – Gen Ed Removal***

2. ***ARTH 331 – Gen Ed Removal***

The ENGL 318, ARTH 340, and 331 Gen Ed removals were put together for discussion/vote. Sharp motioned to approve the proposals. Lowe seconded. Little discussion occurred. The proposals were approved unanimously.

7. **University-Level –**

1. ***UNIV 301 – Creativity and Critical Analysis***

Lowe motioned to approve the proposal. Sharp seconded. Schatteman introduced the proposal and a guest from Career Services (Griegoliet) to discuss the course. Discussion included: Various data indicating the details of the course, cost reductions from the original contract of the course, the history of the course in general with how the discussion at the time unfolded, the exact rationale of why this should be a gen ed course versus a valuable course in general. Discussion included: Caughron, Sharp, Schatteman, Griegoliet, Buhrow. The proposal did not pass. 1 Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – These items were first given how they would inform the discussions for the proposals.**

**A. Schatteman reintroduced the Philosophy and Principles document giving a brief overview of the progress with the document so far. Schatteman opened the floor for discussion before a vote. Discussion topics included: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) statements; Prerequisite/Corequisite requirements; Various data points (who teaches Gen Ed, number of Gen Eds, etc.); Discussion included: Schatteman, Caughron, McGowan, Takai, Lowe. Lowe motioned to approve the Principles and Philosophy document. Arnold seconded. The proposal was approved unanimously.**

- B. BKST 402 – Schatteman reintroduced the proposal given it was tabled while the Principles and Philosophy of Gen Ed was being worked on. There was little discussion on the proposal and when Caughron called a motion to approve the proposal, there were no motions, which left the proposal tabled.**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Jason Rhode – Adult Learner Needs for General Education**
  - **Rhode gave a presentation on the topic, which included the following: definitions of adult learners and demographics; potential pool of adult learners in Illinois that NIU could attract; what adult learners are attracted to for programs/courses generally; the goal to create a bundle of fully online gen ed courses for adult learners, and to try and expand on the list of online courses; program-specific gen ed that might be uniquely helpful for adult learners in programs. Discussion included: Rhode, Caughron, Lowe.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT –**

Sharp motioned to adjourn. Lowe seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.