

# OFFICIAL MINUTES

**General Education Committee Meeting  
1st Meeting/Academic Year 2023-24  
Altgeld Hall 203  
Thursday, September 21, 2023  
12:30p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Voting Members Present: A. Schatteman, Interim Chair (Vice Provost Academic Affairs); D. Brown arrived 1:23pm (CLAS); R. Coughran (COE); S. Ehsani (COB), A. Saravanan (NURS); S. Sharp (CLAS); (M. Myles (BC); D. Myles (CLAS Student); C. Lowe (Academic Advising); S. Sharp (CLAS); J.E. Strid (BC); B. McGowan (Libraries); S. Baker, online (COE)

Voting Members Absent: S. Takai (CEET); S. Arnold (CLAS); J-C Wang (CVPA); H. Jefferson (CLAS Student); A. Zaker (CBUS Student)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: A. Buhrow (Asst. Vice Provost Assessment and Accreditation); I. Gawron (Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor); R. Mazzolini (Program Assistant)

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

- I. Meeting Call to Order by Chair** - With a quorum present, Interim Chair Alicia Schatteman called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.
- II. Adoption of Agenda** - Caughron moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by McGowan. Motion to adopt was **APPROVED**.
- III. Approval of Minutes from 2023.03.23** – Minutes were approved by online vote.
- IV. Announcements**
  - A. Welcome** – Schatteman announced she’s transitioned from her previous position and Chair of the GEC to Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and will remain on the committee. Mazzolini, Program Assistant to the Vice Provost, is providing support for this meeting.
  - B. Introduction of Curriculum Coordinator and Catalog Editor** – Ian Gawron was introduced as the new Curriculum Coordinator and Catalog Editor. He comes from Illinois State University where he had a similar role and is looking forward to working with university leaders.
  - C. Welcome Voting Returning and New Members**
    - CBUS: Yipeng Liu is replacing Setterstrom in year three of three-year term
    - CEDU: Stephanie DeSpain Baker is in year three of three-year term.
    - CEET: Shun Takai is in year two of three-year term.
    - CHHS: Anitha Saravanan is in year one of three-year term. (new)
    - CLAS: Social Sciences: Shane Sharpe is in year three of three-year term.
    - CLAS: Natural Sciences: Dennis Brown is replacing Chakraborty in

year three of a three-year term.

- CLAS: Humanities: Stan Arnold is in year one of three-year term. (new)
- CVPA: Jui-Ching Wang is in year two of a three-year term.
- Advising: Chris Lowe will represent campus advisors in 23-24. (new)
- Student Nominations: selected by the GEC from nominations submitted by the student advisory committees of the undergraduate degree-granting colleges.
- Hasina Jefferson, CLAS (new)
- NEED student nominations from CBUS, CEDU, CEET, CHHS, CVPA
- Three faculty representatives from the BC shall be chosen by the faculty of the BC: Rod Caughron (CEDU), Sina Ehsani (CBUS) and Beth McGowan (library)

**D. Welcome Nonvoting Member - Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Amy Buhrow, Assistant Vice Provost for Assessment and Accreditation (new)**

## **V. Overview of General Education Committee, Standing Committee of the BC**

**A.** Schatteman gave an overview of the General Education Committee, it's a standing committee of the Baccalaureate Council that we report through the BC. Anything the GEC does is advisory. The GEC proposes to the BC for their review to decide to do something with it or not.

### **B. Review of General Education at NIU:**

- Schatteman provided a brief overview, saying that it's robust.
- 21 credit hours across the 18 knowledge domains, with flexibility for the remaining 3 credits
- Human Diversity Requirement, in discussion with Buhrow, may be completed through course, non-course experience, or a co-curricular.
- There are also writing-infused requirements and the AcademicsPLUS Pathways.
- Gawron, as Catalog Editor, will organize and manage them on a Teams site.
- University is moving to Curriculog, a digital platform for managing curricular proposals. This year is implementation, doing training, designing, then full implementation Summer '24.
- The current system will remain in place for this year, Schatteman will notify the colleges when curriculum proposals may be sent.
- The GEC reviews and determines whether proposals fit within the general education criteria.

**VI. DISCUSSION AGENDA – None, items to be held for the next meeting.**

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Pathways**

#### **1. 2010:**

The HLC Document talked about needing to submit more information. A work group was formed to review them.

#### **2. 2019:**

Created pathway coordinators for teaching pathways who were going to market and promote the pathways within their individual areas. They would work with advisors to try to convince students that these are what you want to do, and possibly tied to career interests.

#### **3. 2020-2023**

There was a student survey in 2019 and a faculty survey in 2020. General student feedback was they weren't familiar and may have pursued them and didn't see the need if they don't count towards graduation. Faculty and advisor response was not overwhelmingly positive. This was brought to BC in 2020 but no further action was taken and has remained the same.

Moving forward, all options are on the table from reviewing, modifying, or going in a different direction, to present to the BC.

#### **4. Syllabus Statement**

In 22 we created a syllabus statement for general education courses that was adopted by the GEC and the BC that says students, you are in a general education course and, faculty, you're teaching general education course and the knowledge domain it fits in.

Those courses were sent out to the department chairs asking, do you still want to be in these knowledge domains based on the work that the committee had done to realign courses into knowledge domains and the selection of student learning? Nothing officially has yet to change.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Philosophy and principles/assessment plan of general education**

at NIU

The goal is to align the Gen Ed program university wide and be able to assess to do an assessment through the assessment office.

**B. Curriculog platform and project plan**

Curriculog, which builds on Acalog and serves as a one place storage and status updates for proposals, will be implemented Summer of 2024. There is a project team working on an implementation plan and will be testing parts of it throughout the year.

**C. Nominations for GEC Chair:** The chair shall be elected by the voting members of the GEC and shall serve a one-year renewal term beginning in the fall semester. Caughron was nominated, motion by Sharp, seconded by McGowan. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Next meeting of GEC** - The next meeting of the GEC will be October 19, 2023, on Teams, and invited GEC members to submit any requested agenda items to the curriculum coordinator one week before the meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** - Having concluded the business on the agenda, Schatteman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharp moved to adjourn, seconded by Caughron. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Mazzolini  
Program Assistant to the Vice Provost