**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**General Education Committee Meeting 1st Meeting/Academic Year 2024-2025  
Teams**

**Thursday, September 19, 2024**

**12:30p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Voting Members Present: Baker, S. (CEDU); Gonzalez, N. (Student Rep); Zhou, L. (CBUS); Takai, S. (CEET); Haupt, K. (Student Rep); Wilson, J. (CLAS); Devroye, A. (CVPA); Lowe, C. (CEDU-Advisor); Arnold, S. (CLAS); Saravanan, A. (CHHS); Ezell, M. (CLAS).

Voting Members Absent: Wang, J.C. (CVPA)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: A. Schatteman (Vice Provost Academic Affairs); Gawron, I. (Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor), Buhrow, A. (Assistance Vice Provost); Hirsch, A. (CITL).

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent:

1. **Meeting Call to Order by Chair** - With a quorum present, Alicia Schatteman called the meeting to order.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** –
   1. Lowe motioned to adopt the agenda. Saravanan seconded. The agenda was adopted
3. **Approval of Minutes** –
   1. Previous minutes were approved via email.
4. **Announcements**

**Schatteman led brief introductions of the new and returning members of the committee.**

* 1. **Welcome New Members:** Lei Zhou CBUS, Mike Ezell CLAS, Jim Wilson CLAS, BC representative Anthony Devroye, CLAS student representative Nathan Gonzalez, CEDU student representative Kate Haupt
  2. **Welcome Returning Members:** Stephanie DeSpain Baker CEDU, Anitha Saravanan CHHS, Stan Arnold CLAS, Jui-Ching Wang CVPA, Chris Lowe Advisor, Amy Buhrow
  3. **Orientation/Overview of** [**General Education Committee**](https://www.niu.edu/university-council/committees/gec.shtml)

Gawron led the orientation to the general education committee mostly covering: the functionalities of the new curriculum management system; what reviews should generally look out for; the best way to access proposals each meeting; voting on the minutes; and what to generally expect from the GEC meetings. Little discussion occurred on the topics.

* 1. **Update on** [**General Education Review**](https://www.niu.edu/academicaffairs/general-education/about/general-education-review.shtml)

Schatteman led the discussion on the General Education Review. The topics mostly covered the work of the GEC last year in revamping the Gen Ed program at NIU. This included: Removing pathways from the catalog; updating criteria for gen ed courses, such as more regular assessments and how gen ed courses should attempt to have no prerequisites, or as few prerequisites as possible; abd various survey results concerning general education. There was discussion on various points, such as the prerequisite requirements and how strictly courses are approved for gen ed without prerequisites/with prerequisites. This discussion included: Devroye, Schatteman.

* 1. Review [Philosophy and Guiding Principles of General Education](https://www.niu.edu/academicaffairs/general-education/about/index.shtml)
     + [Enriching the Design of General Education](https://www.niu.edu/citl/programs/enriching-the-design-of-general-education.shtml) (EDGE) in collaboration with the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL)

Hirsch led the discussion concerning EDGE and CITL updates related to Gen Ed. The primary updates indicated that CITL has updated their website with more convenient tools to better determine if a course counts for general education, and which domains/guidelines might be relevant for the particular domain. This is related to the Alignment chart below.

* + - General Education Course [Alignment with Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes](https://www.niu.edu/citl/resources/toolkits/edge/gened-alignment.shtml) and Assessment
    - Teagle Foundation, [Planning Grant](https://www.teaglefoundation.org/Call-for-Proposals/RFPs/Cornerstone-Learning-for-Living) concept paper due by Dec. 1, 2024, meeting Oct. 22 to discuss
  1. **Assessment of General Education Background and Plans – Amy Buhrow**

Buhrow led the discussion concerning assessment and Gen Ed. Buhrow primarily indicated the following: the importance of regular assessment of courses and gen ed for various HLC requirement purposes; how the updated gen ed criteria will support assessing gen ed courses; the start of an assessment taskforce to test a small subset of courses against the new criteria to ensure everything is aligning correctly. Little discussion occurred on the topics.

1. **DISCUSSION AGENDA –**
2. **College of Business**– *No Curricular Items*
3. **College of Education –** *No Curricular Items*
4. **College of Engineering***–*

* MEE 382 – Gen Ed Removal

Saravanan motioned to approve the MEE 382 proposal. Lowe seconded. Schatteman briefly explained that these requests happen occasionally usually for various staffing/course offering reasons. Little discussion occurred on the topic. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **College of Health and Human Sciences –**

* FSMD 258 – Society and Culture

Lowe motioned to approve FSMD 258 request for general education designation. Baker seconded. Discussion primarily occurred around the prerequisites present; the final grades being determined by the tests being so high could cause student stress. Discussion included: Saravanan, Schatteman, Buhrow, Gonzalez, Haupt, Baker. The motion passed unanimously.

* HDFS 343 – Society and Culture

Lowe motioned to approve HDFS 343. Arnold seconded. Discussion primarily centered on the prerequisites; potential duplication considerations and how that might be relevant given the prerequisite differences; and if the knowledge domain is the most appropriate. This discussion included; Schatteman, Saravanan, Zhou, Buhrow, Lowe, Devroye, Takai, Gonzalez, Haupt. The proposal was tabled to try and get some of the concerns discussed resolved.

1. **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences** –

* ENGL 300A – Creativity and Critical Analysis

Devroye motioned to approve ENGL 300A. Saravanan seconded. Discussion topics included: this being a section of ENGL 300; if the course title is appropriate given it indicates “advanced” but has no prerequisites. Discussion included: Schatteman, Lowe, Zhou, Gonzalez, Haupt. The motion passed unanimously.

* ENGL 309 – Creativity and Critical Analysis

Devroye motioned to approve ENGL 309. Arnold seconded. Discussion topics included: If this is cross-listed with a graduate course and if that is appropriate. Discussion included: Lowe, Schatteman, Ezell, Wilson, Takai. The motion passed unanimously.

* BKST 402 – Society and Culture

Schatteman gave the background of this proposal briefly indicating it was tabled a couple times last year while Gen Ed was being reworked. Takai motioned to approve the proposal. Devroye seconded. Discussion topics included: that it is a 400-level course and if that is appropriate for general education designation. Discussion included: Lowe, Schatteman, Arnold, Devroye, Haupt, Gonzalez, Takai. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **College of Visual and Performing Arts***– No Curricular Items*
2. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**
3. **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Election of GEC Chair**

Schatteman briefly explained how GEC meetings will go similarly to how this meeting went and inquired if anyone would like to be the next GEC Chair. Schatteman nominated Baker. Baker accepted. Baker was elected chair of GEC by verbal vote.

1. **ADJOURNMENT** –

Zhou motioned to adjourn. Arnold seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.