

General Studies Council Minutes
April 4, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room
***** PENDING APPROVAL *****

Present: Julie Agard, Sylvia Asay, Debbie Bridges, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau, Aaron Estes, Tim Farrell, Beth Hinga, Katherine Kime, Miechelle McKelvey (via Zoom), Kristi Milks, Kim Schipporeit, Sri Seshadri, Rebecca Umland, Ron Wirtz

Absent: Karl Borden, Derrick Burbul, Mark Ellis, Beth Wiersma

I. Call to Order:

Debbie Bridges called the meeting to order.

1. Approve Agenda:

Brown/Seshadri moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Minutes from the March 7, 2019 meeting were approved via email.

II. Old Business (Open Items):

III. New Business:

1. Course Proposals (New): Nothing submitted:

Moratorium on new course proposals for 2018-19 AY (approved at 4/26/18 GSC meeting).

2. Assessment and GS Program:

a. Update on Syllabi Collection/Review Spring 2019:

The course syllabi being reviewed were assigned to five review teams; each review team summarized their findings for the Council. Review teams reported that most syllabi were rejected for issues such as: the Capstone project not meeting the 50% of course grade requirement, old General Studies statements were used, issues with the course descriptions, learning outcomes were not being met, and courses were being taught by adjunct faculty.

Bridges will notify the faculty members and department chairs of the syllabi that need to be revised.

3. Review/Revision of General Studies Program:

a. Review/Discussion of FSAA/ College of Ed Policy/Academic Affairs Committees' Comments on Proposal to Revise General Studies:

Kime/Umland moved to approve removing the GS requirement for both the portal course and the capstone course. The 6 hours from the portal and capstone courses would be added to the distribution category, keeping the program at 37 hours.

After considerable discussion about the motion as well as other scenarios, the motion failed with one abstention.

The Council discussed the current proposed change to the GS Program was driven by the current Administration and with all the academic deans going to be new, as well as the President, maybe the situation should be re-evaluated once the new Administrators are in place. There isn't a broad base for any of the proposed options across campus; therefore, it might be best to go back to the beginning and do this the right way and look at making fundamental changes to the program.

Darveau/Wirtz moved to reject the current GS proposal and find a way to modify our current program to benefit all. Motion failed (4 yea and 6 nay votes).

Brown/Seshadri moved to accept sending the current 37 hours proposal as is to Dr. Bicak, along with the colleges feedback.

Darveau/Agard moved to postpone consideration of the above motion (to accept sending the current proposal to Dr. Bicak) until the next meeting on April 25. Motion carried.

4. Review/Revision of Governance Document

At the last GS Council meeting there was discussion regarding restructuring the GS Council due to the merger of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities and the College of Natural and Social Sciences. After discussion with Dr. Bicak, he is not in support of the expanding the Council at this time.

Bridges asked the Council to review the current GS Governance document and note areas that need to be addressed, prior to the April 25 meeting.

IV. Other:

V. Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.