

General Studies Council Minutes
October 4, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room
***** Approved via email *****

Present: Julie Agard, Sylvia Asay, Debbie Bridges, Greg Brown, Derrick Burbul, Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau, Mark Ellis, Aaron Estes, Tim Farrell, Beth Hinga, Katherine Kime, Miechelle McKelvey, Kristi Milks, Kim Schipporeit, Sri Seshadri, Rebecca Umland, Beth Wiersma, Ron Wirtz

Absent: Karl Borden

I. Call to Order:

Debbie Bridges called the meeting to order.

1. Approve Agenda:

Darveau/Brown moved to approve the agenda. Agenda was adopted.

2. Minutes from the September 6, 2018 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. Initial Results from Spring 2018 Distribution Course Assessment (Aesthetics, Humanities and Social Sciences).

Brown/Seshadri moved to approve sending the results to campus. Motion carried.

b. Update on Syllabi Collection/Review Fall 2018.

The course syllabi are loaded in Canvas for the subcommittees to begin the review process. Each group will submit their combined comments in a summary to Bridges prior to the November meeting.

3. College Merger and General Studies Council: Update

Dr. Bicak has approved the Council to operate under the current governance document for the 2018/19 AY.

4. Review/Revision of General Studies Program:

a. Update on APR:

Dr. Bicak has approved a one-year deferral for the General Studies APR. Dr. Bicak and Bridges will revisit the rescheduling at the end of the spring semester.

b. Update on Timeline:

If structural changes are needed to the GS program the work will need to be completed by December.

c. Options/Alternatives to Consider:

Bridges asked the Council to answer the two questions (from September 6 meeting): 1) what they felt is right with the current General Studies Program; and 2) what issues we know need to be fixed.

Some of the positives of the current program are: portal courses, capstone courses, innovative and interesting courses, the breadth of courses, level of writing, uniform program, students have a choice, assessment is positive, show cognitive progression and students are allowed to be exposed to different areas.

Some of the issues with the current program that need addressed are: students transferring sufficient hours to qualify for the portal waiver still come up short of the total hours required (e.g., have 42 hours); investigating a different way to assess at end of the GS program; distribution hours and 2-discipline requirements can impact some transfer students (e.g., may come in with 6 hours of humanities but all in one discipline); democracy in perspective as a standalone category; and cobbling together of ENG 101 / ENG 102 in the program – could be more coherent.

Bridges also distributed 4 different proposals for changes to the GS program, submitted by council members. The Council discussed the pros/cons and commonalities of all the proposals and determined the best elements from each proposal.

All of the 4 proposals have 9 credit hours in the foundational core, by removing Democracy as a standalone category. The Council suggests the foundational core be 9-12 credit hours and integrate Democracy into other categories. There was also considerable discussion about eliminating the requirement that courses need to be from two different disciplines. This would help transfer students who have already met their GS requirements, but not from two different disciplines.

Kime/Umland moved to eliminate the Wellness Category all together. Motion failed.

Asay/Darveau moved to approve keeping the 6 Distribution Categories (Aesthetics, Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Analytical and Quantitative Thought and Wellness). Motion carried with one nay vote.

Darveau/Brown moved to approve keeping the Portal Course. Motion carried with one nay vote.

Darveau/ Seshadri moved to approve keeping the Capstone Course. Motion carried with one nay vote.

For the November meeting the Council should be prepared to discuss 1) What should the revised GS program look like in total number of credit hours; 2) What should the credit hours be in the Distribution Category; 3) How should the hours be allocated in the categories?

IV. Other:

V. Adjournment:

Darveau/Brown moved to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. Motion carried.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, November 1, 2018, at 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.