

**General Studies Council Minutes**  
**February 6, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room**  
**\*\*\* Approved via email \*\*\***

**Present:** Sylvia Asay, Joan Blauwkamp, Debbie Bridges, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau, Jeremy Dillon, Mark Ellis, Aaron Estes, Tim Farrell, Michelle Fleig-Palmer, Rebecca Umland, Jeff Wells, Ron Wirtz Julie Agard, Beth Hinga, Doug Tillman, Lisa Neal

**Absent:** Sri Seshadri

**Guests:** Charlie Bicak, Roger Davis, Megan Hartman, Amanda Sladek, Kim Schipporeit

**I. Call to Order:**

Bridges called the meeting to order.

**1. Approve Agenda:**

Brown/Darveau moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Bridges requested some flexibility in addressing agenda items. Council agreed.

**2. Minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting were approved via email.**

**II. Old Business (Open Items):**

**1. Course Proposals (Review for Final Approval):**

**III. New Business:**

**1. Course Proposals (New): Nothing submitted:**

Moratorium on new course proposals continued for 2019-20 AY (approved at 9/5/19 GSC meeting). If a department feels a new course is needed then justification will need to be provided as to why it needs to be included in the current General Studies Program.

**3. Assessment and GS Program:**

a) Initial results from fall 2019 Written Communication and Oral Communication course assessment. Assessment results from fall 2019 semester are available on Canvas (Qualtrics and draft report). Council will discuss at the March meeting.

b) Update on syllabi collection / review spring 2020  
Portal syllabi are available for Review Teams on Canvas. Syllabi Review Teams have been shuffled a bit so new members are paired with experienced members. Teams should get together and review syllabi, and report in a single form for each syllabus by the April 30 meeting.

**IV. Other:** Information from Faculty Senate Academic Affairs – changes to existing GS courses. FAMS 160: Personal Money Management – prefix change to FIN 160; and PSY 250: Behavioral Statistics. Changing from lecture, lab to lecture only (hours being reduced from 4 to 3).

### III. New Business (Cont'd):

#### 2. Review/Revision of General Studies Program

Dr. Bicak addressed the Council. Dr. Bicak thanked the Council for their work and identified 4 key provisions of the proposal: 1) Stays within the 30-31 credit hour target that he set; 2) Definition in first year different from other years; 3) Streamlined transfer for Associates degree; and 4) While there isn't a specific requirement for career education, that component could easily be accomplished within each department.

Bicak is looking for the new program to be implemented in Fall 2020. He reminded the Council that the key to successful completion/deployment is compromise, flexibility, creativity and ensuring maximum opportunity for all levels of satisfaction, collaboration such as team teaching. Nothing is insurmountable. Sometimes rules have to be changed – must look at rules as well as interpretation. Council members may take “slings and arrows” from others around campus, but this is important work.

Council thanked Dr. Bicak for his comments.

Bridges informed the Council that the program-by-program side-by-side comparison of existing vs proposed GS curriculum has been completed and shared with Departments. Not sure about where courses currently designated as democracy, wellness, or Analytical & Quantitative Thought (A&QT) would fit within revised program. For most programs impact is minimal; suspect most of the A&QT and democracy courses will likely come back in. If we overlay proposed program on current program, won't push programs over established limits. Bridges, Ellis, Hinga, and Bicak met last week and Dr. Bicak reiterated that there should not be an increase in the number of hours in the major. Most programs come in at 34-37 hours of GS courses exclusive of A&QT and democracy courses.

Bridges informed the Council Dr. Bicak's responses to 4 specific questions posed to him (during last week's meeting with Bridges, Hinga, Bicak and Ellis):

- 1) Is attaining a 30-31 hour essential? Emphatic yes. Adding one thing means taking something else out.
- 2) Is the goal of improving flexibility/transferability important? Emphatic yes. Keep in mind transferability and flexibility for students and programs.
- 3) Is having a lab component in sciences essential? No.
- 4) How should we resolve the issue of ENG 101? Is it going to stay in GS? Yes. Minimum level in GS is ENG 101. Programs can require ENG 102 if they wish.

Report on Campus Forums: They went well and there was good attendance. Thanks to GS Council members who attended.

Discussion of GS Proposal:

**AS degree.** Students transferring in with an AA degree will have completed the GS program. Proposed new language about allowing AS degree to count by review. “A determination as to an Associate of Science (AS) degree's fulfillment of the program requirements shall be made upon review. Students are expected to complete GS requirements specified within their program of study.” Discussion: Language problematic. A course-by-course analysis is done now as it is. Concern from Health Sciences is that AS transfers from CCC will be at a disadvantage. Need to identify how many hours? Neal: Should accept AS degrees just like AA degrees. Ellis: Most of the AS degrees coming in are through Health Science so a good idea to look at those. Look at CCC and Southeast as our largest transfer institutions. Council agreed to look into AS requirements from those campuses to see how closely they align with our GS program.

**Maximum number of required GS hours.** Motion made (Blauwkamp/Wells) *Departments may not require specific GS courses within their programs that would exceed 37 hours for a student with no elective credits, so that it is possible for a student to meet the specific GS requirements for their major within the 31 hour program threshold when availing themselves of the maximum 6 hours of elective credit.* Discussion: Blauwkamp: Putting limit on departmental requirements- should be 37 hours max. Bridges: To facilitate transfer, would be helpful to set minimums but not maximums. Most programs aren't requiring more than 37 hours but that number does not include courses that don't obviously come back in. Putting a maximum, Dr. Bicak was concerned because it reduces flexibility and transferability. Blauwkamp feels each college would rather have individual departments build on top of GS. Darveau: Limits needed because departments will game the system. Better approach is to put a maximum on the total program rather than the GS program. Total of GS + Major = maximum defined by program. Farrell: Accreditor requires 65% of hours in music so need to make sure BM degree is not bound by these maximums. Darveau: Define number of hours by degree type: (BA vs BS vs BM, etc.). Brown: Problematic for colleges to scaffold additional hours. Blauwkamp: Courses beyond major should be defined by college. Unified general studies program of 30-31 hours. Dillon: Confused about difference between elective in and out of GS. Wells: Clarifying, if a program requires ENG 102 that does not have to go back into the program hours, correct? Yes, correct. Agard: Premature to vote on this today.

Motion to postpone vote on this item (Agard/Brown). Motion passed.

**Inclusion of Wellness.** Bridges provided the Council with language from HLC's Revised Criteria for Accreditation which defines Informed Citizenship as *"Having sufficient and reliable information about issues of public concern and having the knowledge and skills to make reasonable judgments and decisions about them."* Based on this information, one option would be to modify language in LOPER 9 Civic Competency to include wellness in all its forms as an option. Darveau: Trying to do a lot of things in the program. How will we create flexibility? Don't think that we should blend wellness with LOPER 9. LOPER 10 is specified by HLC. LOPER 9/10 is where flexibility comes in. Broad support for Wellness. Best to do it as a LOPER 11. Tie LOPER 1 with LOPER 9 or 10. Creates flexibility to create LOPER 11. Blauwkamp: Problem with careers initiative in LOPER 1? Ellis: Dr. Bicak conceded that the careers course is probably not a part of this program. Bridges: This approach would still allow transfer students a path to complete LOPER 9 and 10. Darveau: Asks how many hours needed to address content? Brown: courses could be 2 hours. Ellis and Darveau: Extra credit hour could allow other departments to bring in career information or other 0.5 or 1 hour courses. Blauwkamp: Would departments have ability to offer 3 hour wellness course? (Yes) Wells: Likes Scott's proposal. Another idea is to consider incorporating Wellness in FYS with LOPER 1. Add wellness to college success. Fleig-Palmer: LOPER 1 helps the students develop skills in research. Could easily see in conjunctions with LOPER 9/10. Not so much wellness. Brown: Concern about excluding LOPER 1+Wellness for students transferring in with 18+ hours. Darveau: Keeping wellness separate best option. General consensus is that it is more appropriate to marry LOPER 9 or 10 to LOPER 1.

Motion: Add LOPER 11 (Wellness) as optional in the program and require LOPER 1 (seminar) to include a LOPER 9 or LOPER 10 component (Darveau/Umland). Motion carries.

**Discussion on ENG 101 and ENG 102.** Guests from ENG would like to say a few words regarding ENG 101/102; data and information provided by Writing Composition Coordinator, Amanda Sladek. Amanda Sladek: Would advocate for ENG 102 be the course that fulfills LOPER 2. With Articulation we need ENG 101 to count for GS as well. ENG 101 as a GS elective. Darveau: How open would the department be to 1-2 credit core that would allow 1-2 credits for department? Sladek: Would need to discuss with the department, but would support keeping ENG 101/102 entirely within the English department. Looking at professional development in the English department to allow students to translate writing into their

chosen field. Umland: Discussions ongoing on developing technical writing and sections of 102 geared more toward certain disciplines.

Council felt additional meetings would be required in order to meet deadline for new GS. Set Thursday, February 13 at 3:30 as next meeting and agenda will include LOPER 11 outcomes, program outcomes, and ENG 101/102 issue.

**V. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.