

General Studies Council Minutes
September 5, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room
***** Approved via email *****

Present: Sylvia Asay, Debbie Bridges, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau, Jeremy Dillon, Mark Ellis, Aaron Estes, Tim Farrell, Michelle Fleig-Palmer, Beth Hinga, Kristi Milks, Kim Schipporeit, Sri Seshadri, Rebecca Umland, Jeff Wells, Ron Wirtz

Absent: Julie Agard, Doug Tillman, Beth Wiersma

Guests: Dr. Bicak

I. Call to Order:

Debbie Bridges called the meeting to order.

Bridges welcomed the new General Studies members to the Council: Jeff Wells (CAS), Jeremy Dillon (CAS), Michelle Fleig-Palmer (B&T), and Doug Tillman (COE).

1. Approve Agenda:

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

2. Minutes from the April 25, 2019 meeting were approved via email.

II. Old Business (Open Items):

III. New Business:

1. Course Proposals (New): Nothing submitted:

The Council discussed whether the moratorium should continue during the 2019/20 academic year, especially with the undertaking of revising the General Studies Program.

Darveau/Wirtz moved to approve continuing the moratorium of new course proposals. If a department feels a new course is needed justification will need to be provided as to why it needs to be included in the current General Studies Program. Motion carried with 1 nay vote.

2. Assessment and GS Program:

a. Initial Results from Spring 2019 Capstone Course Assessment:

Bridges asked the Council to read through the report and the Qualtrics survey for discussion at the next meeting.

b. Syllabi Review Results Summary and Feedback (Spring 2019) Faculty:

Bridges sent the syllabi feedback to the faculty and a few of the syllabi have been revised and resubmitted.

c. Updated on Syllabi Collection/Review Fall 2019:

Bridges reorganized the review teams in order to pair the new members on the Council with the present members.

Once Bridges receives all of the syllabi she will load them on Canvas. The Council should have the review completed by the November meeting. As a reminder, each team should send a combined summary on the syllabi to Bridges once the review is completed.

d. Update on Fall 2019 Written and Oral Communication Course Assessment:

The Department Chairs and Faculty have been notified on which courses will be assessed this semester.

3. Review/Revision of General Studies Program:

a. Plans for 2019/20 Academic Year:

Dr. Bicak thanked the Council for all of their significant and important work last year. Dr. Bicak charged the Council to undertake a revision of the General Studies program. Dr. Bicak suggests a new program that looks decidedly different than our current program with revolutionary changes that are systematic and quick. In carrying out the charge, the Council should consider making fundamental changes, as well as structural changes to the program, and reducing the hours in the program.

Dr. Bicak suggested the Council look at the processes rather than content in disciplines with a proactive approach. In addition, the first year of the program should be differentiated from other years (i.e., year 2, year 3, and year 4) of the program.

Dr. Bicak will give campus his charge on revising the General Studies Program at two campus information sessions:

Monday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. in WSTC 152W

Tuesday, September 24 at 3:30 p.m. in COPH 142

4. General Studies Council Governance Document (College Merger and Updating GSC Governance Document):

Bridges asked the Council to review the proposed changes to the Governance Document on Canvas. The Council will discuss and act on the proposed changes at the October meeting.

IV. Other:

V. Adjournment:

Darveau/Wirtz moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

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