

**General Studies Council Meeting Minutes**  
**October 3, 2019 3:30pm**  
**Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room**  
**\*\*\* Approved via email \*\*\***

**Present:** Julie Agard, Sylvia Asay, Joan Blauwkamp, Debbie Bridges, Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau, Jeremy Dillon, Mark Ellis, Aaron Estes, Tim Farrell, Beth Hinga, Erin Pearson, Sri Seshadri, Doug Tillman, Rebecca Umland, Jeff Wells

**Absent:** Greg Brown, Michelle Fleig-Palmer

**Guests:** Jeremy Armstrong, Physics

**I. Call to order:**

Debbie Bridges called the meeting to order.

Bridges welcomed the new General Studies Council members: Joan Blauwkamp (CAS), Erin Pearson (Registrar), and Doug Tillman (COE).

1. **Approve agenda:**  
Darveau/Wirtz moved to approve. Motion passed.
2. **Minutes from September 5, 2019 meeting approved via email.**

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

**III. New Business:**

1. **Course Proposals (new):**

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.

New course proposal:

PHYS 203: General Physics for Allied Health (Department: Physics and Astronomy; Instructor: Jeremy Armstrong)

Darveau/Wirtz moved to approve sending forward for campus comment. Jeremy Armstrong answered questions regarding the course and its requirements, as well as why the course should be addressed at this time and why it belongs in General Studies.

Motion carried with one abstention.

2. **Assessment and GS Program**

a) **Initial results from spring 2019 Capstone course assessment**

Dillon/Seshadri moved to approve sending to Dr. Bicak and to campus via Canvas. Motion carried.

b) **Update on syllabi review fall 2019**

Bridges asked the Council to review and submit syllabi reviews electronically to her before the November meeting (November 7, 2019).

### **3. GSC Governance Document (College merger and updating GSC Governance Document)**

Bridges thanked Darveau for drafting and submitting edits to the governance document. The draft edits are to be reviewed at this meeting and subsequent meetings until the GSC has worked through the entire document.

Blauwkamp/Wells moved to take up proposed edits one at a time, then vote separately on approval of the entire document. Motion passed.

Item IA1. Darveau/Tillman motion to approve altering membership requirements aligned with new college configuration: "Three tenured faculty members each (from different departments) the College of Education and the College of Business and Technology; six tenured faculty members (from different departments) with a minimum of one faculty member and a maximum of two faculty members from each of the four divisions of the College of Arts and Sciences." Motion carried.

Darveau/Dillon moved to change language to - Nomination process determined by the individual Colleges; two nominees from each College for each opening, selection made by SVCASA in consultation with the Director of General Studies. Motion carried.

Item IA2. Dillon/Seshadri moved to approve changes to Non-voting Members: Striking language about student membership. Motion carried with one abstention.

Darveau/Dillon – change language in Ex Officio Members: Change "Director of Advising" to "Director of Academic Advising and Career Development or representative." Motion carried.

Item IB3. Changes to voting procedures. Voting procedures  
Blauwkamp/no second – change language to: "Actions are approved by a simple majority of the voting members in attendance." Motion failed due to lack of second.

Wells/Darveau – change language to: "Actions are approved by a simple majority of the voting members in attendance, but the majority must include one vote from CBT, one vote from COE, and one vote each from at least two divisions of CAS. Motion carried with one abstention.

Item IIH. Duties of GSC

Darveau/Dillon moved to approve adding Item H, "Establishing policies with regard to the scheduling of GS courses, especially those unique to GS." Discussion focused on the issue of academic freedom in a department's scheduling of its sections and courses versus the power of the Council to intercede if a department's scheduling practices seemed to be affecting program quality or enrollments elsewhere. Also discussed were questions of whether/when the Council would use this power to develop scheduling policies and how/if the Director could effectively implement them. Motion carried (6 yea, 5 nay).

Item IIIB. Duties of Director of General Studies

Darveau/Seshadri moved to change Item B to: "Coordinating GS offerings with Deans and Chairs in accord with the offering policies established by the GSC." Motion carried with one nay and one abstention.

Darveau/Seshadri moved to suspend discussion of governance document for today to move on to other agenda items. Motion carried.

### **4. Review/Revision of General Studies Program**

#### **a) Campus information sessions debrief**

Bridges informed the Council that both information sessions were well attended; Dr. Bicak gave charge to faculty and Council members answered questions.

**b) Plans / logistics for moving forward with campus discussion**

Blauwkamp questioned why stated consensus to start with learning outcomes was not in last month's minutes. Wells' recollection was that the proposal to start with learning outcomes was initiated by Bridges and Hinga. Dillon stated that he does not remember any dissent at the time of last month's meeting. The conclusion is that it was an oversight not to include consensus in the minutes from the September meeting.

Bridges provided a draft plan for forming working groups and asked for input from the Council. Discussion ensued regarding composition of working groups, timeline for meetings, soliciting volunteers, and resources to be provided. The Council approved formulating working groups (number of groups to be determined by the number of volunteers), with group assignments designed to have a mixed membership of volunteers from the three colleges and four academic divisions within CAS plus volunteers from the relevant staff offices. The Council further decided that the charge to the working groups would be to engage in a broader discussion of desired learning outcomes and how best to achieve them rather than writing the learning outcomes. Email requesting volunteers will be sent to campus this week with groups being formed and notified by October 11; first meeting of the working groups should take place before October 18. Available Council members will meet on October 11 to discuss talking points for initial meeting of working groups.

**IV. Other:**

**V. Adjournment:**

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

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:** Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 3:30 p.m., Warner Conference Room.