

General Studies Council Minutes
February 4, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room-via Zoom
**** Approved via Email ****

Present: Sri Seshadri, Sherri Harms, Jeong Hoon Choi, Nita Unruh, Doug Tillman, Tim Farrell, Rebecca Umland, Jeff Wells, Joan Blauwkamp, Jeremy Dillon, Joel Berrier, Rochelle Reeves, Miechelle McKelvey, Lisa Neal, Aaron Estes, Beth Hinga, Jessie Bialas, Mark Ellis, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas

Guests: Amy Rundstrom, Tim Jares

I. **Call to order:** Brown called the meeting to order.

- **Approve Agenda:** Blauwkamp/Dillon moved to approve the agenda. **Motion Carried**
- **Minutes from January 14, 2021 meeting (approved via email)**

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

- Review of previously reviewed syllabi that were returned for revision.
- MUS 101 (For LOPER 5 and 10) - Motion was for revise and resubmit to address the assessment of LOPER 5 A, C and LOPER 10 A, B and to correct the catalog description and add the program objectives for General Studies.
 - Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to approve MUS 101 for LOPER 5 and send to campus for LOPER 10. **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
- PHIL 105 (For LOPER 9) - Motion was to revise and resubmit to explain in the syllabus how the course meets the LOPER 9 learning outcomes, rather than just link to the old Democracy in Perspective objectives with "also meets" and add UNK diversity & inclusion policy statement (COVID policy also if taught in Spring 2021; class not offered in spring 2021)
 - Blauwkamp/Umland moved to approve PHIL 105 for LOPER 9.
 - Seshadri stated he noticed some minor issues in the syllabus. He stated he is not against approval but wanted faculty to know.
 - **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**
- FIN 160 (For LOPER 11) - Motion was to revise & resubmit to explain how the LOPER 11 learning outcomes are being met, especially item A, the other seven dimensions of wellness other than financial wellness; remove the old General Studies course objectives; and correct assignment weighting to equal 100% and match to catalog description.

- Blauwkamp asked Unruh if she was satisfied with the syllabus explaining the outcomes of wellness. Unruh stated the syllabus now addresses all wellness outcomes.
- Blauwkamp/Dillon moved to approve FIN 160 for LOPER 11.
Yes: 13/No: 0 Motion Carried

- Approved in the previous GSC meeting for dissemination to campus for comments prior to vote for final approval.
- PSCI 168 (approved for LOPER 7 and new for LOPER 10) - No comments from campus.
 - Blauwkamp/Reeves moved to give final approval to PSCI 168 for LOPER 10. **Yes: 13/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- Course proposals (review for final approval):
- LOPER 5
 - DANC 122 (Provisionally Approved for LOPER 5, new proposal for LOPER 10)
 - Blauwkamp/Harms moved to give final approval to DANC 122 for LOPER 5 and send to campus for LOPER 10.
Yes: 13/No: 0 Motion Carried

- LOPER 6
 - ENG 252 (Provisionally Approved for LOPER 6, new proposal for LOPER 9)
 - Blauwkamp/Wells moved to give final approval to ENG 252 for LOPER 6 and send to campus for LOPER 9.
Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried

- LOPER 8
 - PHYS 100L (the syllabus was included in the materials to be reviewed in the November 5 meeting along with PHYS 100. But PHYS 100L was left off the agenda, and the meeting minutes do not reflect approval of PHYS 100L)
 - Blauwkamp/Tillman moved to give final approval to PHYS 100L for LOPER 8. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- LOPER 11
 - PE 108
 - Unruh/Dillon moved to give final approval to PE 108 for LOPER 11. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

III. New Business:

- Review of new GS Course proposals
- LOPER 9

- ENG 153
 - Blauwkamp stated the syllabus needs some corrections and suggested it be revised and resubmitted. Seshadri agreed with Blauwkamp.
 - Blauwkamp/Seshadri moved to have ENG 153 revise and resubmit to add the academic integrity policy to syllabus, add the dispositional requirements purpose statement and remove foundational and broad knowledge ones from syllabus; and add detailed explanation of how the LOPER 9 objectives are met in syllabus (same explanation as part 2). **Yes: 13/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- LOPER 10
 - SOC 369
 - Blauwkamp/Reeves move to send SOC 369 to campus for LOPER 9. **Yes: 13/No: 0 Motion Carried**

 - ENG 235H (previously approved for LOPER 6, new proposal for LOPER 10)
 - Blauwkamp stated the ENG 235H syllabus has the same issues as the ENG 153 syllabus.
 - McKelvey/Seshadri moved to have ENG 235H revise and resubmit to add the academic integrity policy to syllabus, add the dispositional requirements purpose statement and remove foundational and broad knowledge ones from syllabus; and add detailed explanation of how the LOPER 10 objectives are met in syllabus (same explanation as part 2). **Yes: 13/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- LOPER 5 & 10
 - ART 378
 - Blauwkamp stated she does not have a problem approving ART 378 for LOPER 5 but LOPER 10 seems just tacked on. She stated she is not comfortable approving for LOPER 10. She stated the syllabus is not specific enough about which types of diversity will be studied or how learning respect for human diversity is integral to the course. Choi stated the grading scale seems off and the academic integrity statement is not in syllabus. McKelvey stated the syllabus indicates that they will cover the material. Blauwkamp suggested having two motions: one for LOPER 5 and one for LOPER 10.
 - Unruh/McKelvey moved to approve ART 378 for LOPER 5 and LOPER 10 with the inclusion of Academic Integrity statement. **Yes: 1/No 11 Motion Failed**
 - Reeves suggested the syllabus be revised and resubmitted to have it better describe how the LOPER 10 outcomes will be met.
 - Unruh/Berrier moved to have ART 378 revise and resubmit to provide more information on how the course will address LOPER 10 and add the Academic Integrity Statement. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- LOPER 6 & 10
 - ENG 255
 - Blauwkamp stated the ENG 255 syllabus has the same issues as the ENG 153 syllabus. Seshadri and Unruh both stated the syllabus only has the General Studies purpose statements and has no objectives.
 - Blauwkamp/Seshadri moved to have ENG 255 revise and resubmit to add to the syllabus the broad knowledge and dispositional purpose statements and explain in detail how the LOPER 6 and LOPER 10 outcomes are being met. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- ENG 101 Prerequisite Change (Information item)
 - Brown stated the ENG 101 prerequisite change is for informational purposes and does not require a vote.

- List of courses approved so far (Information item)
 - Wells stated HIST 215 has been approved for LOPER 10. Brown stated he will add HIST 215 to the list of approved courses.

- Further discussion on LOPER 1
 - Blauwkamp asked Neal for an update on the number of -126 (LOPER 1) courses so far submitted in CIM. Neal listed the courses that are currently in CIM (roughly 10 departments). Blauwkamp asked for confirmation, which Neal provided, that the deadline for getting courses into the CIM pipeline for the 2021-22 catalog is February 21. Wells stated that CAS faculty think the deadline is next week, when the CAS Educational Policy Committee next meets.
 - Harms stated the College of Business & Technology thinks the LOPER 1 seminar should be by 'prefix' and not 'department' to be considered multidisciplinary. Dean Jares and the CBT chairs had sent a letter to the Council requesting this change, since departments are administrative units that can combine a variety of disciplines. She asked if the LOPER 1 proposal could be changed. Brown stated it could be changed if the Council votes on it.
 - Ellis stated Dean Teten proposed having one single, generic prefix for all LOPER 1 seminars so it could go across all Colleges. Dillon asked how it would work. Neal stated FTE goes by faculty member. She also stated if the Council chose to have a single prefix, she would encourage a three-credit hour course instead of three one-credit hour courses.
 - Blauwkamp stated a multidisciplinary course is what the Council is trying to create. She stated she is not against the seminar combining courses by prefixes, but the rationale that the Council used to make it by departments was "face validity" for students. It might not be clear to students that, for example, a seminar combining Finance, Economics, and Accounting is multidisciplinary – all courses from the same department.
 - Ellis recommended sidelining the generic course suggestion but instead urged the Council to consider the CBT recommendation to combine courses by

‘prefix’ instead of by ‘department’. Unruh asked if a compromise would work in which the LOPER 1 seminar could combine three prefixes from at least two different departments. Brown agreed with Ellis that pursuing the generic course suggestion would be going back to the drawing board on LOPER 1.

- Neal asked for documentation as to whether the Council is for or against the generic course suggestion from the deans. Harms stated she is against it.
- Blauwkamp/Unruh proposed the following statement: It is the sense of the Council that a generic -126 three credit hour LOPER 1 is not a workable means of implementing the multidisciplinary, team-taught seminar that the Council has proposed. A generic seminar also is inconsistent with the charge to have LOPER 1 courses underway for Fall 2021.

Yes: 12/No: 1 Motion Carried

- Seshadri/Tillman moved to change ‘department’ to ‘prefix’ in the LOPER 1 proposal.
 - Harms stated that departments are an administrative structure and prefixes better reflect different disciplines. Prefixes also tend to be standardized across universities.
 - Wells noted that the Council’s current course-approval materials only evaluate courses based on whether they meet the applicable LOPER objectives; the evaluation criteria do not specify that LOPER 1 must be multidisciplinary. Brown replied that the Council will need to revise the submission guidelines for LOPER 1 seminars to reflect what the Council approved for LOPER 1 at last month’s meeting.
 - McKelvey stated that she thinks changing to prefixes would put smaller departments at a disadvantage. Multi-prefix departments could put together a seminar within their own department, while other departments would still have the logistical challenge of coordinating across different departments.
 - **Yes: 6/No: 7 Motion Failed**
- Dillon asked the Council if it would make a difference if the motion limited seminars to prefixes combining at least two departments.
- Harms/Choi moved to change ‘department’ to ‘prefix’ in the LOPER 1 category with a limit on two of the three courses with prefixes from the same department. **Yes: 10/No: 3 Motion Carried**
- Brown stated he will let campus know of the change made to the LOPER 1 proposal.
- Wells stated faculty have not heard anything on the flexibility of the deadlines to get seminars on the schedule for Fall 2021. He stated CAS ED Policy has their next meeting on Tuesday, February 9th so -126 courses would have had to be submitted by yesterday. Blauwkamp stated CAS ED Policy could hold a special meeting. Ellis stated he will let the Deans know that their ED Policy committees need to be flexible to accomplish the goal of implementing the new -126 courses by Fall term.
- Brown asked what changes needed to be made for the LOPER 1 seminar submission instructions. Dillon stated the seminar proposal and syllabus

should demonstrate how the course is multidisciplinary. Seshadri stated the checklist should include a place to list what the seminar's focal problem or issue is. Brown stated he will draft changes to the course submission guidelines for LOPER 1 and send the document to the Council for review. He asked for rapid feedback, since seminar proposals will need to be on the agenda for the March and early April meetings to be approved in time for Fall 2021.

- Brown asked if the Council should hold some campus forums on implementing the LOPER 1 seminar. Blauwkamp stated the Council is running out of time to offer forums and it would be best to answer questions as they come. Unruh noted that forums will suggest that LOPER 1 is still open for discussion.

- Items suspended pending completion of course review & approval
 - Assessment and GS Program:
 - Review / revision of governance document (GSC Governance)

IV. Adjournment: Berrier/Harms moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2021 @ 3:30 pm via Zoom