

General Studies Council Minutes
March 5, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room
***** Approved via email *****

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

Absent: Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau

Guests: Kenzie Cuba, Brette Ensz

I. Call to Order:

Bridges called the meeting to order. Bridges introduced and welcomed, Jessica Bialas, to the Council.

1. Approve Agenda:

Fleig-Palmer/Seshadri moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Minutes from the February 6, 2020 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.

2. Review/Revision of General Studies Program

a) Program proposal

Ellis addressed the Council and informed them that Dr. Bicak has a number of “executive orders”

- AA/AS at time of transfer will fulfill GS
- ENGL 101 will satisfy LOPER 2
- Colleges may identify up to 7 hours of college requirements beyond the 30-31 hour GS program (wants to be sure there is a cap)
- “IN the discipline” versus “OF a discipline”
- Wellness will not satisfy LOPER 9, will remain LOPER 11
- At the end of the meeting today there will be a proposal to go out to campus
Effort to move discussions along and get proposal ready for distribution

Bridges reminded the Council that LOPER 2 – 5 had been taken up at earlier meetings so today’s starting point is LOPER 6.

LOPER 6. Motion approve as written (Blauwkamp/Brown). Motion carries (12 Yes/ 0 No).

LOPER 7. Motion to approve “assessed as” as written (Blauwkamp/Seshadri). Motion carries (12 Yes/ 0 No).

LOPER 8.

Motion to change (b) by striking “scientific method” and replacing it “appropriate scientific methodology” (Dillon/Wirtz). Motion carries (12 Yes/ 0 No).

Motion to change (c) by striking “science” and replacing it with “scientific principles” (Dillon/Blauwkamp). Motion carries (12 Yes/ 0 No).

Motion to approve a-d with b, c as amended (Blauwkamp/Seshadri). Motion carries (12 Yes/ 0 No).

Bridges: There are several 3 hour science courses that exist on campus and as transfer classes. In order for them to count as GS courses they will need to be bumped up to 4 hours or reduce lecture and add a lab. Dillon stated that students benefit from both - taking a lab or not taking a lab. Seshadri suggested changing the wording from “must” to “may”. Umland agreed with Seshadri stating that it would give students flexibility.

Motion to change “must” to “may” contain a lab (Wirtz/Seshadri). Motion carries (9 Yes/ 3 No).

LOPER 9 and LOPER 10:

Motion made to change “evaluate” to “articulate” in item (d) for both LOPER 9 and LOPER 10 (Blauwkamp/Wirtz). Motion carries (12 Yes/ 0 No).

LOPER 9: Motion to change language in LOPER 9 to better mirror HLC language (Brown/Fleig-Palmer). Proposed language:

“LOPER 9***: Civic competency **and Engagement.** (Civic competency encompasses civic knowledge; analytic skills; and participatory and involvement skills. Civic engagement encompasses motivations, attitudes, and efficacy; democratic norms and values; and participation and activities) ~~ethics, engaged citizenship, stewardship, or public service)~~

Assessed as:

- a. Can identify **issues of public or community concern and** problems or challenges posed by lack of civic ~~in~~competency **and Engagement**
- b. Can gather and evaluate **sufficient and reliable information about issues of public concern and have the knowledge and skills to make reasonable judgements and decisions about them** ~~information important to competent civic action~~
- c. Can evaluate practices and decisions for their civic consequences
- d. Can evaluate the significance of civic competency **and engagement** for themselves or for society
- e. **Can explain the importance of community service and civic engagement to address issues of public or community concern”**

Discussion: Seshadri suggested striking out letter D and combine letters D and E. Change E to “Can articulate the importance of community service and civic engagement to address issues of public or community concern.”

Motion made to approve changes made to letters A, B, and C in LOPER 9 and strike out letter D and change letter E to “Can articulate the importance of community service and civic engagement to address issues of public or community concern” (Brown/Fleig-Palmer). Motion carries (11 Yes/ 1 No).

LOPER 10. Motion to approve “assessed as” as written (Blauwkamp/Brown). Motion carries (11 Yes/ 1 No).

Umland submitted proposal to include WI course requirement in GS for discussion. Umland noted that when WI rule was in place several years ago, students were required to have at least 12 hours of writing. With the new proposed GS program we are now down to 3 hours. Bridges inquired where the WI requirement would fit within the program. Wells suggested adding at WI course in LOPER 9 or LOPER 10. Dr. Ellis suggested making another course WI in a different LOPER section. Council agrees it is bad that we are eliminating so much writing, but there is no extra room in GS for this. Council encouraged Umland to submit a proposal to Faculty Senate Academic Affairs for a WI requirement as a graduation requirement.

Bridges requested discussion return to program proposal.

LOPER 11.

Brown asked if LOPER 11 would be a 2 or 3 credit hour requirement and suggested having 2 credit hours be broad and 1 credit hour be more specific.

Motion made for LOPER 11 to be 2-3 credit hours and approve letters B, C, and E as written, strike out letter D, and change letter A to “Can articulate the importance of the eight domains of wellness (emotional, spiritual, intellectual, physical, environmental, financial, occupational, and social wellness) (Brown/Farrell). Motion carries (7 Yes/3 No/ 1 Abstention).

LOPER 1.

Motion to change title of LOPER 1 to freshman seminar (from First Year Seminar) and to accept “assessed as” as written (Blauwkamp/Fleig-Palmer). Motion fails (4 Yes/ 7 No).

Estes: Role to be played by Enrollment Management and Student Affairs in First Year Seminar. Proposed incorporating two learning outcomes: (1) Can identify appropriate academic strategies to use in their courses and learning experiences; and (2) Can initiate a process toward the attainment of personal and professional goals and articulate potential pathways to employability

Motion to change LOPER 1 title to Freshman Seminar (Brown/Wirtz). Motion fails (0 Yes/ 11 No).

Motion to change letters B and D in LOPER 1 to the suggestion made by Estes and approve letters A, C, and E as written (Brown/Farrell). Motion fails (5 Yes / 5 No).

Motion to include “to include information important to academic and professional success” in letter A and approve B – E as written (Blauwkamp/Wirtz). Motion carries (9 Yes / 2 No).

b) Next steps

Fleig-Palmer asked about what the next steps in the process would be. Bridges informed the Council that the proposal would go out for campus review for a period of 2 weeks (to be consistent with current practices), the Council would probably need to hold information forums, and then ultimately will go out for a campus vote. Bridges noted that given the progress made today, the goal is to have the Council’s consent to disseminate the proposal to campus on Monday. Bridges encouraged the Council to check their emails and take steps so the process can move forward.

3. Assessment and GS Program: (not addressed due to time constraints)

- a) Initial results from fall 2019 Written Communication and Oral Communication course assessment
- b) Update on syllabi collection / review spring 2020

4. GSC Governance Document (College merger and updating GSC Governance Document) (not addressed due to time constraints)

IV. Other:

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.