General Studies Council Minutes
April 2, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.
Via Zoom
*** Approved via email ***

Present: Julie Agard, Sylvia Asay, Jessie Bialas, Joan Blauwkamp, Debbie Bridges, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas, Scott Darveau, 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:

Guests:

I. **Call to Order:**

Bridges called the meeting to order.

1. Approve Agenda:
    Darveau/Wells 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) Campus forum(s) debrief, and
    b) Feedback / comments from GS for Faculty discussion board

    Bridges informed the Council of the need to decouple LOPER 1 from LOPER 9/10 as per Dr. Bicak's email on 3/30/2020. Blauwkamp: This is an executive decision, do we need to do anything? Darveau: Disagree with Dr. Bicak. Need to keep coupled. Brown: Also disagree with Dr. Bicak. Need to keep it coupled. Blauwkamp: Coupling asking students and instructors to do too much in those first year seminars – 10 or 11 learning outcomes. Makes sense to decouple. Brown: Still think it's possible to meet all learning outcomes in LOPER 1 + 9/10, perhaps more than coupling 9/10 with LOPER 5-8. Ellis: This is a decision Dr. Bicak made. He wants to see this course stand alone. This is the one course that is unique to the freshman year. This is an executive decision that has already been made. Darveau: This is no longer a program put together by the Council anymore. Ellis: Dr. Bicak is nudging you along, and this is saving time in the meeting, so there is not a lengthy debate about a decision that has already been made. This is a hybrid committee, serving under the senior vice chancellor so this is an administrative committee, and the GS program is an administrative program.

    Motion to decouple LOPER 1 from LOPER 9 or 10 to reflect concerns expressed in GSC discussion

forum and Dr. Bicak's instructions (Blauwkamp/Wells). Motion carries (8 Yes / 4 No)

Bridges identified a potential problem with using the terminology "developmental" in the proposal and asked Neal to comment. Neal: Developmental is not what we would consider college level. It means remedial, so it would be helpful if we could change that. Bridges: Would foundational work? Neal: Yes, that would work. Brown: Is foundational what we currently have? Bridges: Yes that is what we currently have (Foundational Core in current GS program).

Motion to change Developmental Requirements to Foundational Requirements (Blauwkamp/Brown). Motion carries, unanimous.

Bridges noted that there was very little in discussion board other than the LOPER 1 issue and asked the Council what other items needed to be addressed prior to sending proposal out to campus.

Blauwkamp: Soft rollout with using Portals in Fall 2020 instead of first-year seminar (LOPER 1). Bridges: Asking about campus approval as opposed to implementation. Do you think this needs to be rolled into the proposal for the ballot? Darveau: Helpful for people to know what implementation will look like. Bridges: Do we need to add to ballot? Blauwkamp and Darveau: No, it's ok to be in an email. Bridges: Anything else we need to address with regard to the structure of the program?

Dillon: Since we've decoupled LOPER 1 from LOPER 9 or 10, we need to revise language under LOPER 1, LOPER 9, and LOPER 10. Bridges: Under LOPER 1, the statement has been removed. Dillon: Statements under 9 and 10 may need to be modified. Wells: Requirements for 2-4 are very specific, so maybe we should limit coupling of LOPER 9-10 with LOPERS 5-8. Bridges: That was the original intent, yes? Darveau: To be consistent, must say under LOPER 1 that it may not be coupled with LOPER 9 or 10. Dillon: Either put the statement under 1, or put it in the paragraph stating which LOPERS can be coupled with LOPER 9/10. Umland: It's fine to make it just broad knowledge.

Motion to modify language under *** to "Designated courses with appropriate content may be approved to satisfy one of the Broad Knowledge requirements plus LOPER 9 or one of the Broad Knowledge requirements plus LOPER 10. Courses may be approved to satisfy LOPER 9 or LOPER 10 alone." (Wells/Brown). Motion carries, unanimous.

Darveau: Need to understand how the 7 additional hours beyond the GS program are determined. Others: Don't need a motion.

Motion to send the revised program out to campus for a vote (Blauwkamp/Wirtz). Motion carries, unanimous.

Discussion returned to soft roll-out. Bridges: Two options - can postpone first year seminar to spring 2021 or to Fall 2021.

Motion to accept xxx188 as a substitute for the First-year seminar for the 2020-2021 catalog year only (Darveau/)

Blauwkamp: Concerned this will set a precedent that first year seminar will become portal by another name. Perhaps waiving first year seminar for a first year might be preferable to substituting. Bridges: Am I correct that you are talking about deferring instead of waiving the requirement? Blauwkamp: If we're going to roll out FYS until Spring 2021 maybe defer? If waiting until Fall 2021, waive requirement. Darveau: Start including material we're going to get from student affairs staff in portals. Doesn't work to not have them take a course at all. Impractical as well, if we get 800 students, not to have them take anything. Asay: How many portals are already

up and ready for registration? Wells: Last fall there were 36. Neal: Can count them up if necessary. Asay: If only incoming freshmen take those portals, would we have to take them down? Darveau: Yes. Asay: Have them take it but maybe Aaron and other people can put together something to help instructors address what we want them to address. Bridges: Council can work with registrar's office to make substitution in the background (portal for FYS). This will be a one-time event in the fall of 2020. Neal: This plan would work, we can handle it behind the scenes. Would the FYS courses be designed and put together by October so they can be taught in spring for those who don't take portals in the fall? Bridges: Can tell faculty they need to have it through specified time period. Darveau: What about any portal course taken prior to summer 2021 is an acceptable substitution for FYS? Bridges: Defer FYS until Fall 2021? Brown: Allows time for developing a better solution for students. Asay: Allows people to start incorporating FYS elements into their classes. Darveau: Withdraw previous motion.

Motion that any portal completed prior to Summer 2021 will be accepted as a substitute for the First Year Seminar (Darveau/Asay). Motion carries, unanimous.

Neal inquired, is the Registrar responsible for moving students to new program? Bridges: Students have to contact the registrar's office to change their catalog year. Neal: If we're implementing LOPER 2-11 in the fall, they can't have 45 hours. Bridges: Program needs to be implemented in Fall 2020. May need to be handled internally to make that work. Neal: Still in progress with new catalog. Have to change each individual program in the 2020-21 catalog to change reflecting reduction in GS hours. Blauwkamp and Darveau: Individual programs need to make those decisions. Cardenas: What about Ed policy committees, etc? Fleig-Palmer: What about approval process for courses to count in new LOPERs? Bridges: Not sure how to answer Lisa's question about catalog. Changes made last time around after catalog had been built. Had statements everywhere in online catalog that the program had changed. Neal: So we're leaving everything the way it looks now, putting in a statement that GS has changed and you don't have to take XX hours, now only 30. Bridges: Departments will have to choose their general studies courses and let the registrar's office know. Neal: I'm on board with making this happen, but what part of the approval process do we bypass to make this happen on time? Bridges: Maybe a conversation in Faculty Senate Academic Affairs would be prudent. Neal: We can delay the catalog some but lots of work departments have to do to get us that information and get it built into a degree audit.

c)   Program-level learning outcomes

Bridges reminded the Council that the program level learning outcomes still need to be finalized. Do we want to tackle that today? Is it important for those learning outcomes to go out at the same time as the general structure? Blauwkamp: Proposal to treat three tiers of program as program-level learning outcomes. Dillon: Do these have to be assessable? Blauwkamp: Don't need independent assessment of program level learning outcomes. Darveau: Treat these as 30,000 foot level assessments. Can delay and development at a different time. Accept these as high level objectives.

Motion to accept proposed program requirements: core academic skills, broad knowledge, and dispositions. Under Program-Level Objectives, change language of 3 to be "optionally LOPER 11" instead of if student elects (Blauwkamp/Brown). Motion carries, unanimous.

d) Next steps

Bridges reminded the Council that the ballot for campus vote is ready; CAS will be split out by division. Bridges inquired about the timeline to use; indicated that a three day voting period sounds reasonable. Darveau: Have we determined what vote approves? Previously 3 out of the 4 colleges with a supermajority. Blauwkamp: Should be affirmative vote of simple majority of faculty of each of the three colleges. Wells: Majority from at least 2 of the divisions of CAS. Dillon: CAS has more than 50% of

faculty so it shouldn't be a single voting bloc. Bridges: Was talking about sending out by division to manage email. Blauwkamp: Jeff was talking about taking vote by division. Wells: Must include a majority of each of two CAS divisions. Blauwkamp: This was for council operations, not for campus votes. Bridges: Mirroring this in campus votes, would this be a majority from at least 2 divisions? Wells: Correct.

After discussion it was decided to send the program out to campus for a vote then let Dr. Bicak review the results and let him decide. The campus vote will be April 7 - April 9, 2020 (Tuesday – Thursday) and campus will need to know it's an advisory vote. Votes will be split by the Colleges and the CAS by division.

Bridges informed the Council that approval of courses (populating the revised program) will be taken up next meeting (after the vote). Some courses will roll over to new LOPERs quite nicely; others may not given the "in a discipline" language, so there will be question marks. Asking Council members to put on thinking caps about an expedited process to make approvals to populate LOPERs. Darveau: Does "in a discipline" apply to foundational LOPERs as well as LOPERS 5-8? Blauwkamp: Look to language approved in different categories.

3. Assessment and GS Program:

   a) Initial results from fall 2019 Written Communication and Oral Communication course assessment

   Bridges reminded the Council that discussing / approving dissemination to campus the results from fall 2019 assessment remains to be completed.

   b) Update on syllabi collection / review spring 2020

   Bridges reminded everyone that syllabi review needs to be completed before next meeting.

   Bridges informed the Council that Dr. Bicak had approved suspension of GS assessment for spring 2020. Given that the majority of Portal courses are taught face-to-face it seemed prudent to ask for the suspension given the transitioning of all courses to remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

IV. Other:

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.