

General Studies Council Minutes
April 1, 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, Joel Berrier, Rochelle Reeves, Miechelle McKelvey, Lisa Neal, Aaron Estes, Beth Hinga, Jessie Bialas, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas

Guests: Amy Rundstrom, Marsha Yeagley, Adam Jensen, Suzanne Maughan Spencer, Ben Brachle, Karl Borden, Ryan Teten, Jim Vaux, Tim Jares

Absent: Jeremy Dillon, Mark Ellis

I. Call to order:

- **Approve Agenda:** Wells/Berrier moved to approve the agenda. **Motion Carried**
- **Minutes from March 4, 2021 meeting (approved via email)**

II. Old Business (Open Items):

- Review of previously reviewed syllabi that were returned for revision.
 - FIN-ACT-MGT 126 (CAPITALISM – How and Why It Works)
 - Unruh/Seshadri moved to send FIN-ACT-MGT 126 to campus for LOPER 1. **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
 - MKT-SCM-SPCH 126 (Combating Misinformation)
 - Seshadri/Choi moved to send MKT-SCM-SPCH 126 to campus for LOPER 1.
 - McKelvey stated the syllabus has a typo. She stated SCM 126 says ITEC 126. Seshadri stated he will let the faculty know.
 - **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
 - ITEC-SPCH-HIST 126 (The Problem of Leadership in a Complex World)
 - Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to send ITEC-SPCH-HIST 126 to campus for LOPER 1 pending the receipt of an explanation of how the 100 points in portfolio are distributed across the three section grades. **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
 - MGT-MKT-ITEC 126 (Acquiring Professional Skills)
 - Seshadri/McKelvey moved to send MGT-MKT-ITEC 126 to campus for LOPER 1. **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
- Approved in the previous GSC meeting for dissemination to campus for comments prior to vote for final approval (no comments received)
 - ENG 153 (Proposed for LOPER 9)

- ENG 235H (Approved for LOPER 6, Proposed for LOPER 10)
- ENG 255 (Proposed for LOPER 6 and 10)
- CSP 150 (proposed for LOPER 9)
- PE 202 (proposed for LOPER 9)
- SPCH 430 (Proposed for LOPER 10)
- TE-CDIS-PE 126 (7 Characteristics of Successful Loper Leaders)
 - Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to give final approval to ENG 153 for LOPER 9, ENG 235H for LOPER 10, ENG 255 for LOPER 6 and LOPER 10, CSP 150 for LOPER 9, PE 202 for LOPER 9, SPCH 430 for LOPER 10 and TE-CDIS-PE 126 for LOPER 1 as no comments expressing concern were received.

Yes: 10/No: 0 Motion Carried

- Course proposals from provisionally-approved courses (review for final approval):
- LOPER 8
 - PHYS 107
 - Wells/Reeves moved to give final approval to PHYS 107 for LOPER 8.
 - Blauwkamp stated the syllabus needs more clarification linking course contents to the LOPER 8 learning objectives. Seshadri agreed with Blauwkamp and stated it should be revised and resubmitted.
 - Wells rescinded motion.
 - Blauwkamp/Seshadri moved to have PHYS 107 revise and resubmit to explain in the syllabus how the course is meeting the LOPER 8 objectives. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

III. New Business:

- Review of new GS Course proposals
- LOPER 1
 - PE-REC-ENG 126 (Live Long, Live Well)
 - Blauwkamp stated the LOPER 1 grading policy is missing.
 - Blauwkamp/Reeves moved to send PE-REC-ENG 126 to campus for LOPER 1 pending resubmission of the syllabus that includes the LOPER 1 grading policy. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**
 - ENG-CSP-FAMS 126 (You at UNK: Developing Individual, Intellectual, and Interpersonal Identity)
 - Blauwkamp stated page three has a reference to KSS/FIN and should be changed to ENG/CSP.
 - Tillman/Harms moved to send ENG-CSP-FAMS 126 to campus for LOPER 1 pending the changes to page three. **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- PE-FIN-FAMS 126 (Living My Best Life: Relationships, Finance, Fitness)
- FIN-PE-REC 126 (Ballin on a Budget)
 - Blauwkamp stated the syllabi for both proposed seminars do not have the correct LOPER 1 grading policy. Students must pass all three sections with a minimum of a D (D-, where applicable) to get credit for LOPER 1. That is different than saying that a student must pass each section to get credit for the others. A student can pass 1 or 2 of the 3 one-credit hour classes in their seminar, and those grades will count (toward their GPA, their 120 total credit hours, and if applicable, as electives toward their 30 hour GS coursework requirement). But unless they pass all three sections, they would not meet the requirements for LOPER 1 and would therefore need to retake the same seminar for grade replacement or take another full 3-credit hour seminar to satisfy the LOPER 1 requirement. All the syllabi for approved LOPER 1 courses need to make that grading policy clear to the students.
 - Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to send PE-FIN-FAMS 126 and FIN-PE-REC 126 to campus for LOPER 1 pending clarification of the LOPER 1 grading policy - must pass all three sections to get credit for LOPER 1. Not must pass each section to pass the other two.

Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried

- Unruh put in chat “STUDENTS MUST GET A PASSING GRADE FOR EACH SECTION TO GET CREDIT FOR LOPER 1” and asked if that would work as the LOPER 1 grading policy statement. Blauwkamp stated the LOPER 1 proposal states a minimum grade of D is required for each of the co-requisite sections, but implicitly D- would qualify as a passing grade, for instructors that assign +/- grades. The grading policy statement in the syllabus also needs to make clear to students that they must retake an entire 3 credit-hour LOPER 1 seminar if they withdraw from or fail any of the individual sections.
- Rundstrom stated she will tell the students in presentations that they must pass all LOPER 1 sections in order to get credit for LOPER 1. She stated it will be in writing in the catalog, in the degree audit, and told to them orally multiple times.
- Seshadri asked Neal, if a student fails one section do they only need to retake the one section to replace the grade? Neal stated they must retake all three sections as they are set up as co-requisites. Blauwkamp stated the three sections comprise one 3-credit-hour seminar as it is a team-taught course.

- Wells asked if a student fails one -126 seminar why they have to retake the same one to replace the grade. Neal stated that because the -126 courses are designated as special-topics courses, it must be the same topic to replace the grade, which is the same policy for all other special-topics courses – including the Portal and Capstone courses in the old GS Program.
 - Seshadri stated he thinks it should be put in the syllabus that if a student wants to drop one section of -126 they will need to drop all sections. Harms agreed. McKelvey stated the student may not be able to drop all three if they have already completed the first section. Neal reminded everyone that the grading window only opens on the Tuesday of Finals Week, so even if a student completed one section's work in the first 5 weeks of the semester, they could not be assigned a grade for it until the end of the semester. Neal also said she will need to run some simulations to determine how/whether the MyBlue system can be configured to prevent a student from signing up for the three co-requisite sections of their seminar and then withdrawing from 1 or 2 of them. She will report back to the Council on the feasibility of a technical fix for this issue.
- PHYS-CHEM-PHIL 126 (Fermi's Paradox: If We're Not Alone, Where Is Everybody?)
 - Berrier/Seshadri moved to send PHYS-CHEM-PHIL 126 to campus for LOPER 1.
 - Blauwkamp stated the syllabus should be revised and resubmitted as there needs to be clarification on the LOPER 1 grading policy and incorporation of the personal and professional development component.
 - Berrier rescinded motion.
 - Blauwkamp/Wells moved to have PHYS-CHEM-PHIL 126 revise and resubmit to clarify the LOPER 1 grading policy and to incorporate the personal and professional development component of LOPER 1 learning objective (a).
 - Wells asked: if this course must be revised and resubmitted, how can it be approved for Fall? Brown stated this course is not intended to be offered until Spring 2022.

Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried
 - MUS-SOC-WSTD 126 (VOICE)
 - Blauwkamp/Tillman moved to send MUS-SOC-WSTD 126 to campus for LOPER 1.
 - Umland stated the syllabus does not describe how voice is a problem. The LOPER 1 seminars are supposed to be addressing a problem or issue from the perspective of multiple disciplines. Seshadri agreed. He also did not see how the courses were

integrated and how each section meets the LOPER 1 requirements. Seshadri also stated the syllabus does not show how the course will meet the personal and professional development requirements.

- Blauwkamp rescinded motion.
 - Maughan Spencer stated the course is about the different ways the voice can be expressed. She stated the problem is how to make the voice visible and the lack of voice. She asked if this needs to be in writing and was told that it does. Umland stated the syllabus also needs to show how the three disciplines' sections are integrated together, since looking at voice from the perspective of Music seems very different from the others.
 - Estes referred to the part of the syllabus that he found to be addressing the personal and professional development needs of first-year students, and Blauwkamp agreed that she thought the proposal had adequately addressed that requirement.
 - Maughan Spencer observed that it seems to her that the directions on how to prepare these LOPER 1 proposals and what the Council is looking for in approving them or sending them back for revisions have been changing over time, which makes it very difficult for faculty and departments to develop their seminars. Blauwkamp said that was a valid criticism: because the Council has been under pressure to get LOPER 1 seminars rolled out for Fall 2021, we have been in the unfortunate position of figuring some of these details out as we go along.
 - McKelvey/Seshadri moved to have MUS-SOC-WSTD 126 revise and resubmit to add more clarification of how the three topics are integrated, what is the problem being addressed in this course and add the LOPER 1 grading policy. **Yes: 10/No: 2 Motion Carried**
- LOPER 10
 - CSP 185
 - Blauwkamp stated page five has a reference to the Portal courses and it is missing the Dispositional category purpose statement.
 - Blauwkamp/Seshadri moved to send CSP 185 to campus for LOPER 10 pending correction in the syllabus to remove reference to Portal courses (page 5) and to add the Dispositional category purpose statement to the syllabus. **Yes: 11/No: 1 Motion Carried**
 - Neal stated there are two courses (PE 256 and PHIL 256) waiting for approval with Academic Affairs. She asked what the deadline is for them to be considered for Fall 2021. Brown stated they will not be able to be approved for Fall 2021.
 - Neal listed the courses that had provisional approval in the new LOPERs General Studies Program for the 2020-21 catalog but for which the departments did not seek or obtain final approval this year. In the next academic catalog, these courses will no longer satisfy any LOPER requirement.

- HSCI 140
- MATH 330
- MUS 106
- THEA 121

- BIOL 211
- PHYS 206
- PHYS 206L
- SOC 210

- Assessment and GS Program: Director Brown announced a team (Greg, Beth, Lisa, Jeremy, Jeong Hoon) has been assembled to apply to the [AAC&U Institute on General Education and Assessment](#). Greg Brown (COE), Jeremy Dillon (CAS), and Jeong Hoon Choi (CBT) are representing their respective colleges on the team.
- Wells asked if any of the LOPER 1 courses that have been proposed so far will be offered online. Brown stated he did not think this would happen for Fall 2021 and if the need is not met then the Council would have to put out a specific call for online seminar options. Blauwkamp stated there are Portal classes that are online now, so if the need is not met then those Portal courses could be offered as an option for students in online programs to meet their LOPER 1 requirement.
- Unruh stated she thinks that faculty could choose to make an online format once they know the in-person courses work. Blauwkamp agreed but noted that still means that in the meantime, incoming students in fully online programs are not being provided with an online course option to meet their LOPER 1 requirement.
- Brown stated an online -126 seminar option will need to be a wait-and-see approach or the Council could allow the -188 online courses to count.
- Neal stated that the Registrar's Office has a policy to allow students who change their catalog year to count their -188 course for LOPER 1. It does not make sense to require juniors or seniors to go back and take a -126 seminar when they have already done a Portal course under the old GS Program's requirements. And since incoming students are not treated differently from currently enrolled students, in practice, any student could take a -188 course during the 2021-22 academic year to meet their LOPER 1 requirement. There was some discussion of whether the Council should issue a statement on this issue, and it was agreed that the matter was best delegated to the discretion of the Registrar on how to effectively implement the transition between GS Programs.
- Items suspended pending completion of course review & approval.
 - Review / revision of governance document (GSC Governance)

IV. Other:

- V. Adjournment: McKelvey/Berrier moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.**

Next Meeting: April 29, 2021 @ 3:30 pm via Zoom