

General Studies Council

March 2, 2023

3:30 PM, Warner Conference Room

****temporary location for 2023 is in the Chancellor's Dining Room, second floor of NSU****

**** Approved Via Email ****

Present: Joel Berrier, Joan Blauwkamp, Jeremy Dillon, Sherri Harms, Toni Hill, Micchelle McKelvey, Tim Obermier, Rochelle Reeves, Sri Seshadri, Rebecca Umland, Melissa Wuellner, Greg Brown, Lisa Neal, Jessie Bialas, Joel Cardenas, Beth Hinga, Tristan Larson, Mark Ellis

Guests: Amanda Wilson, Nanette Hogg, Derek Boeckner, Suzanne Spencer, Jacob Howe

Absent: Nita Unruh, Amy Rundstrom, Noelle Bohaty

I. Call to order:

- **Approve Agenda: Obermier/Dillon moved to approve the agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.**
- Minutes from February 2, 2023 meeting (approved via email)

II. Old Business (Open Items):

- Course proposals (review for final approval):
 - None at this time
- Assessment plan discussion
 - Develop ad-hoc committee consisting of Beth Hinga (UNK Director of Assessment) and 1 GSC Faculty Member for each of COE, CAS, CBT to evaluate GSC assessment plan and spring 2022 assessment report to make recommendations regarding changes.
 - The Council discussed the CAS members' proposal to modify the reporting of assessment results, which had been postponed from the February 2 meeting agenda when time ran out. The CAS proposal is to use the data we are collecting from the instructor spreadsheets to calculate the percentage of students in each section and aggregated across sections for each category that scored 3, 4, or 5 (grades of C through A) on the assessment rubric for each learning objective. That percentage would be compared to a target set by the Council (e.g., 70% proficiency). The assessment report would summarize student performance across sections and report the number of sections that met or failed to meet the target for each learning objective in their category. The CAS members believe this method of reporting and analyzing assessment data will be easier

for all faculty to understand, whatever their discipline or background in statistics (versus the current reporting of means and standard deviations), and the comparison of results to a target for student proficiency better aligns with the assessment reporting that departments do for their academic programs in Weave Online. Hinga stated that HLC should be fine with the change since it does not involve collecting different data.

- **Blauwkamp/Reeves moved for the GS Director to run the analysis using this method for the Spring 2022 assessment data, so that the Council can compare the proposed approach to the current approach, which is documented in the Spring 2022 Assessment Report. The motion carried by unanimous vote.**
- The Council discussed the creation of an ad hoc committee with Hinga and a member from each academic college to evaluate the comparison reports and make recommendations to the Council regarding assessment. Some details would need to be worked out if the Council decides to proceed with the proposed approach, such as setting the target percentage and deciding whether to count 0 scores (non-submissions) in the calculation of the proficiency percentage. No motion was made at this time, but an ad hoc committee to work on the assessment plan may be considered at the next meeting.
- Several members noted that COE and the Art & Design Department are piloting collection of assessment data through Canvas, and we expect that General Studies instructors also will be able to do that, perhaps beginning as early as Fall 2023, with some basic training from ITS (estimated at around 30 minutes).

III. New Business:

- Course proposals (new):
 - SPCH 102 for LOPER 3
 - **Blauwkamp/Wuellner moved to send SPCH 102 to campus for review for LOPER 3. The motion carried by unanimous vote.**
 - In the discussion, it was noted that since SPCH 102 is designated as a special topics course, a student would need to take the same topic for grade replacement, as is policy for all special topics courses. Students will be able to see the topic for a particular section listed on MyBlue when registering for classes.
 - BIOL 102 for LOPER 8
 - **Dillon/McKelvey moved to send BIOL 102 to campus for review for LOPER 3, pending submission of a syllabus of record that includes instructor office hours. The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

- Update from Ad-Hoc committee on Governance Document
 - The ad hoc committee has been meeting twice weekly and is making significant progress on SVC Majocho's charge (see Feb. 2, 2023 meeting minutes for details). The committee submitted to the Council, seeking comments, their drafts of the vision and mission statements. They also plan to recommend changing the program name (and hence the Council's name) to 'General Education' rather than 'General Studies' as this appears to be the updated term that is most commonly used. Several Council members thanked the ad hoc committee for their work and spoke favorably about the proposed vision and mission statements.

IV. Other:

- Director Brown noted that the Jacob Howe, who will replace Tristan Larson on the Council for next year, was in attendance.

V. **Adjournment: Obermier/Berrier moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 4:11 pm.**

Next meeting: April 6, 2023 @ 3:30 pm- Chancellors Dining Room (Temporarily designated as the Warner Conference Room during remodeling in Warner Hall) or via Zoom