

General Studies Council

September 7, 2023

3:30 PM, Warner Conference Room

****Formerly the Chancellor's Dining Room, second floor of NSU****

Present: Derek Boeckner, Steve Hall, Megan Hartman, Kate Heelan, Suzanne Maughan Spencer, Tami Moore, Rochelle Reeves, Whitney Schneider-Cline, David Vail, Mallory Wetherell, Melissa Wuellner, Greg Brown, Mark Ellis, Lisa Neal, Jessie Bialas, Joel Cardenas, John Gibbs, Beth Hinga, Jacob Howe

Guests: Dr. Shaffer, Noelle Bohaty, Sharon Campbell, Janice Fronczak, Darin Himmerich, JP Rech, Nanette Hogg

Absent: Noel Palmer, Greg Benson

I. Call to order:

- **Approve Agenda:** Wuellner/Vail moved to approve the agenda. **Motion Carried**
- Minutes from May 4, 2023 meeting (approved via email)
- Welcome and Introduction of new members to GSC

II. Old Business (Open Items):

- Course proposals (review for final approval): Nothing Pending

III. New Business:

- SVCAA Dr. Julie Shaffer
 - Dr. Shaffer stated there will be an Interim Council for this academic year to work together and look at issues the Council has faced and determine changes that need to be made. Her charge is as follows:
 - 1: Process all proposals for new General Studies courses as it has been done in years past.
 - 2: Review the governance document using the Faculty Senate and Ad Hoc committee documents as a guide to find solutions going forward. Examples include the voting procedure, Council composition and how Council members are chosen. The governance document changes should be introduced to the faculty in sections, not as a whole.
 - 3: LOPR 126 has been troublesome and needs to be looked at to find out what changes could be made in order to make the course a

cohesive experience for the students. This could include talking to faculty members about what has worked/has not worked.

- Brown suggested that the Council should also look at how the General Studies courses are assessed. Dr. Shaffer agreed with Brown.
- Brown reminded the Council that they will not be revising the entire LOPERs program but just look at revising LOPR 126.
- Course proposals (new):
 - Brown gave the Council information about how courses are approved. Vail asked if the Council should continue voting on course proposals before the governance document is revised as in past meetings there were issues with voting and approving courses. Brown stated the Council will continue to approve/deny courses until the governance document is revised and approved. Per Dr. Shaffer the Council needs to operate under the current governance document.
 - Campbell stated the Theatre courses have been created during a revamp of the Theatre bachelor's degree. Theatre wants to offer courses that are needed in the General Studies program and these courses provide an opportunity to add dimension.
 - THEA 421 for LOPER 2 (Writing Skills)
 - THEA 307 for LOPER 3 (Oral Communication Skills)
 - THEA 225 for LOPER 5 (Visual/Performing Arts)
 - THEA 301 for LOPER 11 (Wellness)
 - Boeckner/Schneider-Cline moved to send THEA 421, 307, 225, 301 to campus for comment.
 - Hartman stated she has concerns with THEA 421 and THEA 307 as these courses give very specific skills and are not broad skills like most General Studies courses. She stated there needs to be a variety of skills in the General Studies courses.
 - Vail stated he feels the Council is just re-creating structural issues with approving course if the structure is not changed first.
 - Hall asked if the Council could approve two courses and not the other two. Brown stated that would be an option.

- Reeves stated that the first part of the charge for the Council is to process the new course proposals and that is what the council should to work on.
- **Yes-6/No-5 Motion Failed** (not enough votes from all colleges)
- Wetherell/Reeves moved to send THEA 225 and THEA 301 to campus for comment. **Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried**
- Hall/Wetherell moved to send THEA 307 to campus for comment.
 - Wetherell stated THEA 307 fits in LOPER 3. Wuellner stated that she would like to know how the course could help other students who are not in the Theatre major before approving the course.
 - **Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried**
- Wetherell stated THEA 421 is not a course that she can see could help students across the board if they are not in the Theatre major.
- Brown recommended that the Council could review THEA 421 again in the future. Himmerich stated they will look at the course and try to make it broader and then bring it back to the Council.
- Governance Document Revisions
 - Brown stated the first priority of the Council should be the voting procedure in the governance document. It is currently set up so that one college could cause a course to not be approved. He reminded the Council that any revisions would have to be sent to campus for comment. Wetherell asked if the Council can make a decision on the voting procedure if they don't first vote on the composition of the Council. Ellis stated the problem is the voting structure as a single college could stop a course from moving forward and that this is what needs solved first. He stated Graduate Council is a simple majority vote, as well as Faculty Senate and Student Senate. Hartman stated the Council needs to think about how the parts of the governance document work together when determining how the voting structure will work with regards to the composition of the Council. Wetherell stated equal representation is important for their programs. Vail agreed with Wetherell's point and wants to avoid upspoken resentments. Wetherell stated the Graduate Council has both appointed and elected members, which helps to fill in gaps. Boeckner asked if the Council could vote on a voting policy for this academic year and then later vote on a voting policy for next year which will include the new composition. He suggested doing a simple majority vote for this academic year and then

work through the changes for next academic year. Ellis stated that Boeckner's suggestion makes the most sense.

- Boeckner/Wetherell moved to suspend regular voting rules for governance document changes/issues and replace it with a simple majority vote. The old rules for voting will remain the same for approving/not approving courses.
 - Hall stated if the vote is within one can one college overrule. Ellis stated it should then be a simple majority plus one.
- Boeckner amended his motion as follows: suspend regular voting rules for governance document changes/issues and replace it with a simple majority vote plus one. The old rules for voting will remain the same for approving/not approving courses.
- **Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried**
- Brown stated he will ask Dr. Shaffer if she will allow this voting change.

- LOPER 1 Evaluation
- GS Assessment

IV. Other:

V. **Adjournment: Vail moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 5:01 pm.**

Next meeting: October 5, 2023 @ 3:30 pm- Warner Conference Room (formerly the Chancellor's Dining Room) or via Zoom