General Education Committee
Minutes
February 8, 2016
9:30 a.m., 1A-308

Staff: M. Anderson, P. Brower-Garrett, V. DiMeglio, H. Green, M. D’Alessandro, D. Scimeca
Guests: S. Holak, K. Gold, E. Ivison
Date: December 7, 2015

1. The chair asked the Committee to approve a change in the order of the agenda to allow item # 5, Draft Responses to Queries from the Faculty Senate to be discussed before item # 4, Report from the Subcommittee on Clarification of Catalog Language of Contemporary World and Pluralism Overlays. There were no objections. S. Morris moved to approve the revised agenda. D. DeSimone seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the revised agenda.

2. The minutes of the December 7 General Education Committee Meeting were discussed and minor changes were suggested. D. DeSimone moved to approve the minutes. E. Meehan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 24 (yes), 0 (no), and two abstentions (J. Como and A. Hays).

3. The Committee discussed the amended Proposal for Writing Intensive Courses. The proposal was simply being presented to provide members with a clean final version of the approved proposal, as amended. C. Lavender presented on behalf of D. Allen. Minor corrections were offered to items (vi) and (vii).

G. Fuchs on behalf of J. Verzani asked if the Writing Intensive requirement is a mandatory change and required by all, would this have to satisfy within the general education requirements. A. Gordonov inquired about the cap of 25 and the training for Writing Intensive courses. The chair confirmed that, as stated in item (iii) of the proposal, Writing Intensive courses will have a 25-student cap. And indicated that appropriate training will be developed for Faculty who wish to teach Writing Intensive courses.

4. Draft Responses to Queries from Faculty Senate (K. Gold, N. Sussman): The chair thanked Deans Gold and Sussman for their work on the draft report. He then asked the Committee if it wished to consider the draft as an action item. After considerable discussion of the draft, the chair proposed that a subcommittee be created to review the draft and revise as necessary. R. de la Dehesa made the following motion:

A subcommittee of the General Education Committee should be created to address the questions sent by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. C. Lavender seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 18 (yes), 1 (no), and seven abstentions (G. Reichard, N. Sussman, E. Feria, A. Hays, L. Manne, G. Fuchs, S. Morris). The following members volunteered to serve on the Committee: R. de la Dehesa, C. Lavender, S. Wilson, L. Manne, E. Meehan, C. Anderson.
5. Report from the Subcommittee on Clarification of Catalog Language of Contemporary World and Pluralism and Diversity Overlays: R. de la Dehesa presented the report. Because of confusion resulting from distribution of several different versions of the report, it was suggested by V. DiMeglio that this item be tabled until the next meeting. L. Manne made the motion to table the report to the March Meeting. E. Feria seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention (G. Reichard).

6. Report from the GECAS Committee: M. Anderson reported that the Fall assessment results have still not been submitted. The Committee has yet to receive information from the following Departments: Media Culture, Economics, Engineering Science & Physics (Geology & Astronomy), Chemistry, Political Science, Philosophy. The chair reminded the committee that it is necessary for departments to provide this data in a timely manner because they are necessary for the PRR. GECAS will send out a reminder to the Departments requesting the information as well as provide the template of how to submit the information. For the Spring semester, M. Anderson requested that departments focus on the following learning goals: quantitative and mathematical reasoning, critical and creative thinking, and ethical judgment and personal development. The English Department is working on a “pilot” project on program level assessment.

7. New Business: E. Feria distributed a Pathways flowcharts that he created. The document will also be sent to Committee members electronically. E. Feria asked the Committee to review the document and if they have any suggestions/comments or questions to please email him.

A. Levine moved to adjourn the meeting. D. DeSimone seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11am.