

Fall 10-21-2015

Minutes, October 21, 2015

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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2015

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Members Present: Brian Katz, Nathan Frank, Lisa Seidlitz , Xiaowen Zhang, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Sarah McDowell, Jamie Nordling, Lendol Calder, Mike Egan, Kelvin Mason, Rob Elflin, Mamata Marme, Rachel Weiss

Absent: Elizabeth Fetscher (SGA), Kevin Zaldivan (SGA), Caitlin Slone (SGA)

Guests: Christina Myatt

I. Minutes

Motion- Jamie Nordling moved **“to approve the minutes of the October 14th meeting as submitted.”**

Rachel Weiss seconded.

Discussion was opened. There were typos noted and a change noted to a comment that was made in discussion.

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14TH MEETING WITH THE NOTED CHANGES.

Christina Myatt will file the amended minutes with Mary Koski in Academic Affairs.

II. CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. Discuss data gathered from the campus/faculty

During this portion of the meeting, each member of the committee shared their “spiel”. Highlights and comments included:

SM: frame as free thinkers, not automatic

LC: how to better understand and where necessary change the world

BK: liberal arts (which is very abstract) as opposed to problem solving

JN: takes a storytelling approach sharing personal family experiences, you never know where your path may lead, we can't see into the future, life is complicated, need as many tools as possible in the toolbox

LC: explore beyond your comfort zone

RW: transferable skills, know yourself, know other people

MM: Gen Ed courses give us a language to be able to talk with people from different backgrounds and experiences

KM: when dealing with majors in discipline/prospective students-talking about how the core curriculum dovetails into their major, need to be versed in the vocabulary of those we serve, remain flexible in thinking and be able to adapt and understand those we work with

RE: the word “free” has been used; it seems that we refer to it not just in terms of the students but for the faculty as well

XZ: how to lead a happy and meaningful life, connect with SLOs- finding your calling, communications, contribute to the community

LC: very important that story links to the three big SLO categories

LS: makes students better citizens, better patients, better advocates for their children/parents, appreciate art in various forms

MM: hard skills can be taught on the job, soft skills are harder to teach/train- this is what people hire

Multiple: dislike the phrase “soft skills”- perhaps “human skills”

RW: different ways of thinking, prepares students not just for a career but also for a “good” life

BK: liberal arts versus vocational education

RE: likes that both are explained as “choices” not a one is better than the other scenario

NF: asks students “why are you here”, “why this major”, “why this course”, “why”- helps you figure out “whys” and know your own truth

ME: connect story to SLOs, common experiences

JRC: multiple things not just one, bringing it to here and now, informing our majors, exploring

Discussion turned to what is next. There needs to be some kind of commonality. A list of requirements is not sufficient. There needs to be something that helps students to make sense of the Gen Ed curriculum.

We need: an “elevator” speech, a one page description, and a personal story to share our understanding.

We need a common way to discuss the Gen Ed curriculum otherwise it becomes just a check box list.

Next week we will continue to finesse what we will propose as a statement of the Gen Ed story.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Update from Academic Affairs

None given.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

An update was given on P/NC for HEPE.

LSFY to FYI update- Discussion of this change will be on the next Full Faculty meeting agenda.

An interesting idea: replace “undeclared” with “liberal arts concentration”?

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Myatt