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Minutes, November 30, 2016

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**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 30, 2016
Olin 304**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

Members Present: Mike Egan (Chair), Jamie Nordling, Rob Elflin, Gillian Lederman, Jeff Ratliff-Crain (XO), Rachel Weiss, Chris Strunk, Amanda Wilmsmeyer, Lisa Seidlitz, Kelvin Mason, Mamata Marmé, Eric Stewart, Xiaowen Zhang.

Members Absent: Vanessa Beck (SGA), Luke Stoefen (SGA).

Guest: Ann Miller, Thomas Tredway Library
Kristin Douglas, Academic Affairs

I. Minutes

Motion – Rachel Weiss moved “**to approve the minutes of the November 16th meeting as submitted.**” Lisa Seidlitz seconded.

MOTION TO APPROVE the MINUTES of the NOVEMBER 16th meeting as submitted PASSED.

Ann Miller will file the approved minutes with Mary Koski in Academic Affairs.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

a. PP – POLS 375

Consent agenda item PP – POLS 375 (Dehnel), was reviewed online by the members of the committee and approved. No further discussion was needed at the meeting. **APPROVED.**

b. LC – POLS 375 and WLIT 399 – Pulled off the Consent Agenda pending further discussion.

2. Course Approvals

a. LC – POLS 375 and WLIT 399 (Dehnel and Kalas)

Concerns were raised about the clarity of the perspectives that are to be used for the courses and about the joint reflective essay for the Interdisciplinary Part 2 L.C. Criteria. After further discussion, Mike suggested the course might be ready for approval with some friendly feedback to the instructors regarding the committee’s concerns.

Motion to approve **LC – POLS 375 and WLIT 399 (Dehnel and Kalas)** with friendly feedback to the instructors requesting clarifications of the course perspectives and interdisciplinary component: Rachel; Kelvin Mason seconded.

MOTION TO APPROVE LC – POLS 375 and WLIT 399 (Denhel and Kalas) PASSED.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. FYI 100 (Old LSFY 199)

*Rob Elfline and Kristin Douglas opened discussion and answered questions regarding the proposal that the 1-credit FYI 100 become required for ALL first year students for Augustana's two remaining trimester years. First-year advisors would serve as FYI 100 teachers, would be compensated for that work, and first year students would effectively be permitted 34 credits on their full-time tuition during the first year. The committee expressed concerns that this type of program might increase the workload of and pressures on the instructors that participate. Rob reassured the committee that some readjusting of instructing schedules may need to take place but the rewards to the students and instructors are worth the effort. Rob also provided a hand-out to the committee detailing the positive influence the program has had so far on student retention, based on the results of student surveys compiled by Augustana's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. Results indicate that with FYI 100 and 101, students feel their advisors care more about them as a whole person which can be especially important to the more "at-risk" student population.

*At the end of discussions, Mike suggested the committee wait on making any kind of vote of support until an official proposal is completed and has been submitted to the Faculty.

IV. LEAP Proposal: Senior Inquiry as Gen Ed Designation under Semesters

*Augustana's LEAP Team sent a proposal to the Gen Ed Committee calling for Senior Inquiry to be a Gen Ed designation under semesters. Concerns brought up by the committee included instructor overload, staffing issues related to larger vs. smaller departments, and cross-disciplinary instruction capabilities. This is an ongoing discussion that will continue to remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

V. Spitballs

*Mike compiled and distributed a summary list of Spitball Themes and links to 7 different "rough ideas" that have been saved in the "Spitball Folder" up to this point. Mike expressed that he'd like to committee to review the list and come to the next meeting prepared to further discuss these ideas. This is an ongoing discussion that will continue to remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Jeff Ratliff-Crain addressed the impending departure of Provost Pareena Lawrence and tried to assuage concerns regarding what her absence will mean in terms of the implementation of the many program changes coming to both the General Education Committee and Augustana College as a whole. Jeff stressed that most of the preliminary work and decision-making has been done and the remaining faculty and administrative teams on campus should be able to successfully guide any required action.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Miller