

Fall 10-14-2015

## Minutes, October 14, 2015

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**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

October 14, 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, Rachel Weiss

Absent: Rob Elfline, Mamata Marme, Elizabeth Fetscher (SGA), Courtney Kampert (SGA), Caitlin Slone (SGA)

Guests: Christina Myatt

**I. Minutes**

Motion- Mike Egan moved **“to approve the minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as submitted.”**

Kelvin Mason seconded.

Discussion was opened. Continuing Business should be II not III, change title of LSFY discussion to LS to LSFY to FYI, change LSFY in the paragraph to FYI, and the LSFY 102 email vote should be added to minutes.

**MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23RD MEETING WITH THE NOTED CHANGES.**

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

## **II. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **A. Course Approval**

#### **1. Approval of LSFY 102 From Eden to Instagram**

This course is from a new professor and deadlines had been miscommunicated. Because of this, the committee chose to consider this proposal at this point in the term.

A motion was made by Sarah McDowell to approve this proposal.

The motion was seconded by Lisa Seidlitz.

Discussion was opened. The texts being used are very challenging, however the instructor's own comments note that they are aware of those challenges and have thought about how to handle them. It was suggested that the instructor may want to give students a list of sessions that would work with the assignments relating to Symposium Day. The question was asked what definition the instructor was using for "the past". Feedback to be provided: might want to address the breadth of the material, make sure that the writing involves phases of writing, that the committee liked the use of guided exercises, and that the trip to the library may be too early in the term for the impact the instructor wants.

As there was no more discussion, a vote was taken.

**Motion passed to approve LSFY 102 From Eden to Instagram.**

#### **2. Discuss data gathered from the campus/faculty**

During this portion of the meeting, open discussion ensued about the interviews done by members of the committee. Some of the overarching themes of those discussions are listed below:

Members were encouraged by some of the specific responses to how our colleagues talk about the core curriculum.

Newer faculty note a lack of training in advising.

Multiple ways of knowing is the center of the core curriculum was a common theme.

Responses varied widely from one person to the next. Department chairs (or past chairs) spoke differently than those who have never chaired a department.

The term “well rounded person” was used on many occasions. How are we defining what that means?

Our own comfort zones seem to be painted as a negative in this discussion.

Some departments are able to talk about interdisciplinary work easier than others.

LCs came up a lot in conversations. Some are ready to let them go. Some love them. Some of those that are ready to let them go like the theory behind them but not the practicality.

There are some who used the terminology “you should want to” in discussing the core curriculum.

Core curriculum or General Education?

The story which seems to be emerging does not seem to be what we should be telling. Some people intentionally used the word “forced” when speaking of the Gen Ed curriculum.

People appreciated being interviewed.

Brian asked that everyone share their notes and come next week ready to give their “spiel” for what they would say to explain Gen Ed to an advisee/prospective student.

Brian shared a Gen Ed piece forwarded to him by Pareena. There was discussion about who created this piece and what it is used for.

**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.

HLC wants time to talk with Gen Ed. Time TBD.

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

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Myatt