

10-19-2016

## Minutes, October 19, 2016

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**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

October 19, 2016  
Gavle 1

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

Members Present: Mike Egan (Chair), Kirsten Day, Kelvin Mason, Jeff Ratliff-Crain (XO), Lisa Seidlitz, Gillian Lederman, Mamata Marmé, Christopher Strunk, Lendol Calder, Amanda Wilmsmeyer.

Members Absent: Rachel Weiss, Rob Elflin, Ian Harrington, Vanessa Beck (SGA), Luke Stoefen (SGA) – Asia Term.

Guests: Ann Miller, Thomas Tredway Library  
Samuel Payan, Office of Multicultural Student Life  
Michael Rogers, Office of Multicultural Student Life  
Vanessa Dominguez, Student  
Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Art Department  
Chris Vaughn, ITS Department  
Mahvish Fatima, Student  
Brian Guerrero, Student

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Egan asked all present to go around the tables and introduce themselves by name, and any applicable department.

## **II. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. “D” Suffix Discussion**

\*Chairman Egan and Jeff Ratliff-Crain opened discussion by referring to the handout regarding the current "D" requirement course proposal form and some initial discussion questions for the session. Ensuing conversation focused largely on Augustana's definition of "Diversity" and to what degree "D" suffix classes were providing diverse and meaningful learning outcomes. Many of the students present had taken classes with the "D" suffix, yet did not even realize they were "D." It was suggested that perhaps the "D" might currently have a different definition and more meaning now than in past years. The general consensus of those present was that the college should take a renewed look at the definition of the "D" suffix and the impact of current diversity issues when rethinking a Gen Ed program for the future.

### **2. General Campus-wide Topics and Discussions**

\*Many points were discussed by those present that reflected concerns about a general sense of apathy on campus regarding issues of diversity. Also stressed was the need for clarity regarding the term, "Diversity" and what that really means to all parties at Augie. It was suggested that more immersive experiences in existing classes might challenge students on a more individual level and increase understanding and empathetic actions. Consideration was

given to the possibility of introducing a mandatory component to previously voluntary participatory events, i.e. making Sustained Dialogue a class or receiving class credits for serving on multicultural committees. Another suggestion was to study groups that have been successful in integrating various races into their organizations (church groups, military groups, sporting groups) and modify what works for them to work for the structure of an academic institution. All agreed that the cultural climate as a whole has a “trickle-down” effect and that situations won’t change overnight.

\*Chairman Egan thanked participants for their input and explained that the Gen Ed Committee will use the expressed ideas to help them move forward with the construction of their Guiding Principles and considerations for future incarnations of the Gen Ed Program.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Miller