Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, 14 January 2020
Academic Affairs Conference Room AA 102, Zoom
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jennifer Attebery, Jim Skidmore, Neil Tocher, Spencer Jardine, Shannon Kobs Nawotniak, Matt Wilson, Tayo Omotowa, Paul Cady
Ex-officio: Joanne Tokle, Ann Hackert, Chris Hunt (for Sarah Mead), Mark Cooper (ITRC) Susanne Forrest, Catherine Read
Excused: Shu-Yuan Lin, Leonid Hanin; Geoffrey Bennett (UCC)
Guests: none

1. Announcements -- none

2. Minutes – October 8, 2019, October 22, 2019 and November 12, 2019 – vote via email

3. Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert
   a. New accreditation standards from NWCCU
   b. Math assessment – Ann Hackert met with the Math department and helped them with their assessment plan and mapping their outcomes to the GEM required outcomes. She is meeting with Physics department this week to get their assessment plans up to speed also.
   c. University Assessment Review Committee (UARC) meets tomorrow. Their plan is to start publishing a monthly newsletter for the campus community and set up a website to provide information and helpful links to resources.

Welcome to new COSE representative Shannon Kobs. Still awaiting a replacement for Leonid Hanin who has a teaching conflict with GERC’s meetings this semester. Members introduced themselves. Jardine gave a brief overview of GERC’s purview and purpose in overseeing ISU’s general education program and assessment.

4. Updates from Joanne Tokle:
   a. OSBE’s new Chief Academic Officer is T.J. Bliss, and the Associate Academic Officer is Jonathan Lashley
   b. Faculty fellows from around the state will be serving on OSBE’s Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee to develop/identify open educational resources for GEM Common-numbered gen ed courses.
   c. Statewide Gen Ed Committee meets next Thursday in Boise to start planning the statewide Gen Ed Summit to be held October 22-23 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise.
   d. Gen Ed Crosswalk: OSBE received a grant from the Lumina to train faculty in mapping military credits to GEM Common Courses. ISU will join College of Eastern Idaho faculty in attending a validation workshop in Idaho Falls on February 7. ISU’s representatives include the GEM Discipline Group members, Spencer Jardine as GERC chair, Dewayne Derryberry from Math, and the Registrar, Laura McKenzie. The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Marjorie Price from the SBOE Advisory Committee and by Mary Beth Lakin, Director of Credit for Prior Learning Assessment Network, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

5. Upcoming GERC due dates:
   a. January 14, 2020 – appoint GERC members to chair the Objective Review Committees for Obj 5 & 6
   b. January 17, 2020 – 5-Year Reports for Objective 5 and Objective 6 courses due
   c. April 1, 2020 – Objective Review Committee (ORC) Reports due

Objective Review Committee (ORC) Chair elections:
Jim Skidmore, Spencer Jardine, Paul Cady, Jennifer Attebery, and Shannon Kobs have all participated on past ORCs. The ORCs mainly look for problems or holes in the assessment process to provide ideas
for improvement. GERC strives to keep the workload from being overly burdensome, but the review has proven to provide valuable data and insights. Departments are supposed to be submitting names of their faculty reps along with their 5-Year Reports. ORCs are assessing the gen ed assessment process, not the discipline outcomes or department.

Shannon Kobs, Jim Skidmore, and Matt Wilson volunteered to serve as ORC chairs. Discussion. Election results:
- Objective 5 ORC Chair: Matt Wilson
- Objective 6 ORC Chair: Jim Skidmore

6. GERC Subcommittee: Faculty Survey re: gen ed program and assessment – update
   Members: Jennifer Attebery, Tayo Omotowa, Spencer Jardine, Susanne Forrest

   Jim Stoutenborough from Political Science is on the subcommittee and has been writing a broad-based faculty survey regarding the Gen Ed program and Objectives, with an emphasis on obtaining feedback for Objectives 7, 8 and 9. A draft of the survey should be ready for GERC’s review in February. No response yet from Academic Standards Committee regarding whether to consider codifying the difference between a B.A. and a B.S. degree.

7. Objective 8 Working Group – update
   Met in November and have been discussing the rubric and course assignments for assessments.

8. MGT 1105 Entrepreneurship and Civilization – any update?
   Nothing new at this point. Feedback received was not enthusiastic about this course as proposed. Hold off until other more pressing things in College of Business are finished up.

9. Review of Assessment Reporting and Plans – Vince Miller will provide Qualtrics spreadsheet to GERC soon.

10. Other Business –
    - Disparity of dual credit instructor qualifications across campus, institutions, and the state is an ongoing concern.
    - University Presidents and Provosts are considering making changes to State Board Policy III.Z, which (among other things) assigns regional and statewide service regions among the various institutions in Idaho.
      - Waiver was granted to high schools to ignore the regional service areas, which is causing problems as high schools shop around and choose the least rigorous institution anywhere in the state. Makes meaningful oversight of dual credit courses and instructors by the universities very difficult, and does not serve students in the long run.

10. Adjourn: 3:43 p.m.

Approved by GERC: April 20, 2020 via email ballot
Accepted by UCC: April 23, 2020
Accepted by Faculty Senate: April 27, 2020
Accepted by Academic Affairs: May 1, 2020