Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, 11 February 2020
Academic Affairs Conference Room AA 102, Zoom
2:30-4:30 p.m.

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

1. Announcements
   Campus-wide strategic plan open forum was held yesterday afternoon. Video will be posted online. Ann Hackert and Tayo Omotowa gave a brief overview of the planning forum highlights.

2. Minutes – vote via email

3. Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert
   Short reception to be held in the spring for the assessment coordinators. Daniel McInerney, the NILOA coach, will be coming again in April to facilitate workshops with faculty to share their assessment efforts. Ann Hackert is working with Physics and Math departments to revise their assessment plans. ISU’s assessment website is not finished yet, but it is isu.edu/assessment. New software will be piloted this spring that will generate assessment progress reports.

4. Updates from Joanne Tokle
   • The Statewide Gen Ed Committee met three weeks ago to start planning the annual Gen Ed Summit, which will be October 22-23 in Boise. The committee will reach out to the gen ed Discipline Groups to ask for their input on what they need in advance of the summit.
   • The new SBOE Policy III.U on Open Educational Resources is being revised. Three listening sessions were held statewide to gather faculty input. The Board Office is noting faculty suggestions, and is working with faculty around the state. They will make a draft of the revised policy available for review later this spring. They are putting together faculty teams around the state to work on recommendations for OER materials to be used in some gen ed courses.
   • Last week a workshop was held in Idaho Falls to start working on how to apply academic credit for certain types of military training and experience.
   • Academic Affairs recently reorganized its administrative structure, and Cindy Hill will be replacing Joanne Tokle on GERC and UCC.

5. Upcoming GERC due dates:
   a. April 1, 2020 – Objective Review Committee (ORC) Reports due
      Objectives 5 and 6 Five-Year Reports and list of ORC department representatives were provided to the ORC chairs. Shannon Kobs Nawotniak will chair the Objective 5 ORC instead of Matt Wilson since he had another potential commitment that would preclude him from being able to be chair.

6. Review of Assessment Reporting and Plans
   a. Divide workload and assign subcommittees to review annual reports
      Catherine Read gave a brief onscreen overview of the spreadsheet and showed how the annual reports were organized by course and by reporting year. Workload assignments were as follows:
         Objectives 1, 2 and 4: Jennifer Attebery and Neil Tocher
         Objectives 3 and 5: Spencer Jardine and Shannon Kobs Nawotniak
         Objectives 6 and 7: Tayo Omotowa and Jim Skidmore
Objectives 8 and 9: Shu-Yuan Lin, Matt Wilson

Discussion ensued about the scope and extent of what these internal GERC reviews entail, and how departmental assessment plans are being reviewed, whether by ORCs or by GERC.

Red flags that have been noticed in the past:
- All outcomes being assessed have the exact same percentages of results reported
- Grades being used by departments in assessing whether outcomes are met
- Percentages of students meeting outcomes less than the plan’s minimum threshold without any action being taken to address shortcomings

Past ORC reports are posted on GERC’s website for reference.

7. GERC Subcommittee: Faculty Survey re: Gen Ed program and assessment – update
   Members: Jennifer Attebery, Tayo Omotowa, Spencer Jardine, Susanne Forrest, Jim Stoutenborough
   The subcommittee has finalized a version of the Gen Ed Survey, which they will share with GERC as a whole for discussion in the next meeting. They plan to submit an article to the campus newsletter to help publicize the survey. Attebery briefly summarized the survey format and the structure of the questions. There is a section asking for faculty input about Objectives 7 and 8, a separate section about Objective 9, and another section for longer-term faculty about the transition from the original twelve Goals to the current nine Objectives and how the change has affected their departments and units. The intent of the survey is to ask faculty what is the rationale for the Gen Ed program and whether it is working.

8. Objective 8 Working Group - update
   Jardine said the group continues to meet regularly, but nothing to report today.

9 Other Business – placeholder for future discussion
   - Disparity of dual credit instructor qualifications across colleges and institutions is an ongoing concern.

   Council members felt GERC’s role should be to support departments in their efforts to raise concerns about the early college program, including the faculty instructor selection process, upholding curricular standards, etc. Nothing is happening on this at the state level. Dual credit standards and faculty qualifications are covered under SBOE Policy III.Y. However, it was noted that departments have little to no involvement in selecting the high school instructors teaching their departmental dual credit courses, even though the departments do have oversight responsibilities and students are earning ISU university credits in those courses. High schools are not adhering to instructor qualification standards. Department chairs should point out such problems in their annual assessment reports, and in other appropriate venues. This important issue needs to be ameliorated, since students are not getting the level of education being touted.

10. Adjourn: 3:58 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