Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, 13 October 2020

Zoom - [https://isu.zoom.us/j/99532797942?pwd=eFhjRIV3YTIwV1Nn310NjQ0czdIUT09](https://isu.zoom.us/j/99532797942?pwd=eFhjRIV3YTIwV1Nn310NjQ0czdIUT09)
2:30-4:30 p.m.

GERC’s website: [www.isu.edu/gerc/](http://www.isu.edu/gerc/)

Attendance: Liz Moreno-Chuquen, Erika Fulton, Shu-Yuan Lin, Spencer Jardine, Shannon Kobs Nawotniak, DeWayne Derryberry, Matt Wilson, Tayo Omotowa, Paul Cady,
Ex-officio: Cindy Hill, Ann Hackert, Lisa Kidder, Carmen Febles (UCC)
Excused: Neil Tocher, Taylor Neibaur; Sarah Mead, Abbey Hadlich, Catherine Read
Guests: Andy Holland, Hall Hellwig, Margaret Johnson, Jim DiSanza

1. Announcements – new Bengal ID cards are available, mid-term grades are due by 5:00 pm today. Carmen Febles introduced herself; she is the new chair of UCC for this academic year.

2. Minutes for September 22, 2020 - forthcoming

3. Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert: no report


5. Academic Affairs update – Cindy Hill: no report

6. Unfinished Business:
   a. Objective Review Committee (ORC) Report
      1) Objective 6 ORC Report – Jim Skidmore: deferred until next meeting
   b. GERC Subcommittee: Faculty Survey re: gen ed program and assessment – no update
      Members: Tayo Omotowa, Spencer Jardine, Abbey Hadlich, Jim Stoutenborough (Political Science)
      Subcommittee has been working on a broad-based faculty survey regarding the Gen Ed program and Objectives, with an emphasis on obtaining feedback for Objectives 7, 8 and 9.
   c. Collecting data on how COVID-19 has affected teaching and student learning – no update

7. New Business:
   a. Review ORC Reports for Objectives 1-5 in preparation for joint meeting with discipline group reps
      Objective 1 Review Committee Report - Spring 2018
      Erika and Liz reviewed this report. ENGL 1101 does not have a plan yet. HONS 1101 does have a plan, but apparently has not implemented it yet. Consider combining ENGL 1101 and HONS 1101 into one plan. ENGL does not have any data from HONS 1101. Early College/Dual Enrollment courses are not adequately preparing students for university level coursework. Some question whether HONS 1101 belongs in Objective 1, or whether it be a better fit in Objective 4. Shannon clarified HONS program has started their assessment process and is submitting their reports. Students are satisfying the learning outcomes for this Objective.

      Objective 2 Review Committee Report - Spring 2018
      Matt reviewed this report. COMM 1101 is the only course in this Objective. Anecdotal evidence indicates the Early College program is not serving students well, which is reflected in most of the other Objectives as well. State level discussions will be required to mitigate this problem and foster more cooperation and collaboration between high school instructors and university faculty.
A logistical concern is how to store the historical assessment materials; even digital files add up to be a substantial storage burden.

**Objective 3 Review Committee Report - Spring 2019**
DeWayne reviewed this report. Until recently, assessment was under prioritized in the Math department, and faculty did not see the purpose so were not engaged in the process. Recent changes have resulted in faculty being more involved and better understanding the value of assessment. Assessment Plans for MATH 1143 and 1147 were recently approved by GERC. Faculty are reviewing the Assessment Plan for MATH 1123 and MATH 1153 so it should be coming to GERC soon. MATH 1130 and MATH 1127 have very low enrollment. MATH 2256 and 2257 both have gen ed pre-requisites, so may be revisited. The two calculus courses, MATH 1160 and 1170, are still of some concern.

**Objective 4 Review Committee Report - Spring 2019**
Shu-Yuan and Spencer reviewed this report. Learning Outcome 5 is not assessed by most of the programs. Theatre and Dance have not submitted some of their annual reports. The committee cautioned GERC not to approve any more courses for this Objective, since there are already a plethora of offerings. Faculty in these programs would benefit by more standardization, support, guidance, and resources in conducting assessment. Suggest GERC reach out to these departments to find out their needs and offer help and support. Learning outcomes should be streamlined and measurable, yet applicable across many disparate disciplines.

**Objective 5 Review Committee Report - Spring 2020**
Shannon reviewed this report. Biology and Physics are in the process of re-doing their assessment plans. It is apparent faculty are struggling to understand what is expected in assessing the courses, and would benefit from more feedback on how to improve their processes. The committee had recommendations for rephrased competencies in this Objective.

**Objective 6 Review Committee Report – still under development**
Tayo served on this committee and reported departments appear to be making good faith efforts to assess their courses and use the findings to improve their offerings. The discipline group has recommended to SBOE that all five competencies be required, rather than just four of the five.

b. Discuss issues with ISU Gen Ed State reps prior to their participation in the Gen Ed Summit organized by the ISBOE

Some discipline group members joined the meeting at this point. Andy Holland is on the Objective 5 group and reported they have been working on revised competencies they will take to the Summit and recommend to the State Board. Erika reported some of the reps have encountered resistance from their peers to making any changes to the competencies or to the dual enrollment program. Andy said his group advocates establishing minimum qualifications for high school instructors seeking to instruct dual enrollment or early college courses. It would also help facilitate closer cooperation if the high schools worked with the university and colleges in their own region, rather than across the state. Matt mentioned GERC had suggested this a year or two ago.

GERC recognizes a need to figure out a process and guidelines for selecting the state discipline reps, how long they should serve on the working groups, and develop eligibility criteria. Andy expressed willingness to participate in developing such a process with GERC.

Suggestions from GERC to working group reps:

Objective 1:
Hal Hellwig and Margaret Johnson, their group will meet a couple of times before the summit, starting tomorrow. Will work on revised competencies, haven’t discussed dual enrollment yet.
Discussion established that HONS 1101 by itself fulfills Objective 1, whereas ENGL 1101 and ENGL 1102 together fulfill the objective. ENGL 1101, especially in the high school dual enrollment courses, has much more variation in what material is covered, and how different instructors in different schools teach the course. Hellwig explained how ENGL 1102 is assessed, which seems to be working fairly well. Recommendation would be to ensure dual enrollment courses are robustly represented in the samples being assessed.

Objective 2:
Matt reported the only real concern is the early college courses in this objective. Jim DiSanza reported the working group has met 5 times in the past few weeks, and will meet once more before the Summit. They have discussed potential changes to the learning outcomes but have not reached a consensus. His understanding is that the Open Educational Resources project has not gone smoothly and the new head of OSBE is not as enthusiastic about enforcing implementation.

Objective 3:
DeWayne also serves on the working group, and they have had several productive meetings. They prepared several recommendations for changes to the rubric and streamlined the competencies.

Objective 4:
Neither Tom Klein nor Pat Brooks were able to attend today. Spencer will reach out to them to share GERC’s observations and get their group’s ideas and perspectives.

Objective 5:
Andy already reported above.

Objective 6:
Erika reported her working group has not met yet, though some emails were exchanged among members.

Cindy Hill will report back to GERC after the Summit to brief them on what transpired and what changes the working groups recommended.

c. Core Themes Matrix
Ann Hackert will share the matrix with GERC members this week so they have a chance to review it before next meeting on October 27.

Spencer has drafted an email to department chairs and assessment coordinators reminding them to submit their annual assessment reports, and to prepare the Five-Year Reports for Objectives 7 and 8.

8. Adjournment: 4:17 p.m.

Approved by GERC: February 1, 2021 via email vote
Accepted by UCC: February 4, 2021
Accepted by Faculty Senate: February 8, 2021
Accepted by Academic Affairs: February 16, 2021