**Minutes**

General Education Requirements Committee  
Tuesday, September 28th, 2021

**Zoom link:** [https://isu.zoom.us/j/84945656992](https://isu.zoom.us/j/84945656992)  
2:30-4:30 p.m.  
GERC’s website: [www.isu.edu/gerc/](http://www.isu.edu/gerc/)

Attendance:  Jennifer Attebery, Erika Fulton, Joanne Tokle, Cathy Gray, Ben Crosby, Matt Wilson  
Ex-officio:  Margaret Johnson, Mark Cooper, Abbey Hadlich, Ann Hackert, Joann Trimmer, Catherine Read  
Excused:  DeWayne Derryberry, Shu-Yuan Lin; Carmen Febles (UCC)  
Guest:  none

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1. **Announcements:**
   
   Session schedules are posted on the website:  [www.isu.edu/accreditation](http://www.isu.edu/accreditation)  
   GERC’s meeting with the accreditors is next Thursday morning, Oct. 7, 9:30-10:20 am

2. **Minutes** for August 31, 2021 and September 14, 2021 – *forthcoming for next time*

3. **Updates and Information:**
   
   a. **Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert**
      
      Ann Hackert provided links to recordings of last year’s Assessment Institute sessions. Matt will forward the links to committee members.

   b. **Academic Affairs update – Margaret Johnson**
      
      Mock Accreditation Site Visit feedback
      
      Margaret displayed a Power Point and explained what GERC needs to be aware of before next week’s site visit. There are only two standards: Student Success and Governance. Year 6 and Year 7 were combined this year. GERC’s faculty members are encouraged to speak up and respond to the accreditors’ questions. Please read through the self-study report, especially 1.C.2, 3, 5 & 6? Be prepared to answer questions about relationship to core themes, indicators, benchmarks/targets, campus, transparency, collegiality, use of assessment results to inform decision-making. Standard 1.B.1. explains the committee structure.

   c. **UCC update – Carmen Febles:** nothing new to report

   d. **Physics Assessment Plans --** will be remanded to department for revisions, with comments from Matt and Ann, as discussed last meeting. Ann and Matt met this week and talked about what to take back to Physics. The template form Physics used was missing a few questions which caused some of the confusion GERC experienced in reviewing the Assessment Plans.

   e. **New state disciplinary group representatives installed – GERC reviewed; no objections**
      
      **Objective 3:** Xiao Xia (Jessica) Xie, (CoSE) and Don Allen, (CoT) - replaced Bob Fisher and Jim Wolper  
      **Objective 4:** Ryan Babcock (CAL) - replaced Pat Brooks  
      **Objective 6:** Kevin Marsh (CAL) - replaced Gesine Hearn

4 **Unfinished Business:**

   a. **GERC Subcommittee: Faculty Survey re: gen ed program and assessment**
      
      Members:  Tayo Omotowa, Spencer Jardine, Abbey Hadlich, Jim Stoutenborough (PoliSci)  
      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.  
      Matt, Jennifer, and Abbey explained the background of why and how the subcommittee was originally formed. Jennifer recalled it came about through a discussion about Objectives 7, 8 and 9,
their integrity and how they fit within the Gen Ed Program, whether the courses in each Objective made sense, and broader questions about Objectives 1 through 6. Abbey said that last year the subcommittee brought a revised version to GERC leadership, but the full committee has not seen it since Spring 2020. Matt said the survey will give a good opportunity to solicit faculty feedback on the Objectives and General Education as a whole. Objective 9 will be reviewed this Spring, which will complete the first full 5-Year Review Cycle. Joanne Tokle suggested Objective 9 Review be completed before soliciting faculty feedback. The survey could also be used to help shape discussion of the Gen Ed Program review.

After discussion of timeframes, it makes sense to release the survey to faculty in early Fall 2022 after the Objective 9 ORC report is available to faculty. However, GERC needs to be clear within itself what questions they want answered and what kinds of information they are looking for in reviewing the Gen Ed Program itself.

**ACTION ITEM**: Abbey will check with Jim Stoutenborough to ensure the subcommittee’s most recent changes are incorporated, then she will bring the survey back to GERC for discussion and feedback.

**MOTION**: Replace the two subcommittee members who have left GERC. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

- **Joanne Tokle** volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.
- **Abbey Hirt** will continue to serve.
- **Jim Stoutenborough** has been the survey author.

Ben suggested subcommittee consider shortening the survey. After GERC provides its perspectives and suggestions, the subcommittee will revise the survey accordingly. The survey could be shaped or reshaped creatively as well as critically, with fresh eyes and ideas.

Abbey Hadlich is going to share latest copy with GERC members and then get feedback from members as to how they want to see changes. The smaller subcommittee could then implement those changes into the survey and then come back to GER with the updated survey. The general purpose of the survey is to be opened ended and stands to inform a full scale review of General Education program next year.

b. **Feedback Summaries** – finalized; approve for sending to departments
   1) **Objective 1**, **Objective 2**, and **Objective 7**: (Matt and Jennifer)
   2) **Objective 3** and **Objective 5**: (Ben and Erika)
   3) **Objective 4**: (Matt and DeWayne)
   4) **Objective 6** and **Objective 8**: (Cathy and Joanne)
   5) **Objective 9**: (Shu-Yuan and Joanne)

Consensus to include a blanket reminder in each report to file timely reports and include all types and locations of course offerings in the data collected and assessed in the single report (e.g. online, face-to-face, Early College, remote locations, etc.)

**MOTION**: Provide the Feedback Summaries as amended back to the departments. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

c. **ANTH 2203 proposal** existing course as new Objective 8 course (no UCC proposal required)

   Discussion. It was suggested that perhaps some additional research of resources and analytic evaluation of search results warrants inclusion in the Objective focused on imparting sufficient Information Literacy skills for students to apply in their future courses and careers.

   Consensus was to **remand** the proposal with comments and feedback to the department for revisions.
5. New Business:
   a. ENGL 1101/1101P Assessment Plan – for existing Objective 1 course
   b. SOWK 1101 proposal as new Objective 6 course (corresponds to AY2022-23 UCC Proposal #36)
   c. ENGL 2215 proposal as new Objective 9 course (corresponds to AY2022-23 UCC Proposal #51)
   d. PHIL 2260 proposal as new Objective 7 course (corresponds to AY2022-23 UCC Proposal #53)

6. Placeholders for Unfinished Business for future agendas:
   a. Assessment Plan Audit and Reporting Compilations
   b. Revisit Process for Selecting ISU’s State Gen Ed Discipline Group Reps
   c. Objective Review Committee (ORC) Report Action Items
      1) Consider suggested changes to Objective 7 Outcomes 4 and 5
      2) Consider creating subcommittee to update Objective 8 outcomes
   d. Objective 8 Working Group update – Spencer Jardine
   e. Pilot assessment project
   f. Revisit Annual Assessment Report Questions in Qualtrics
   g. Consider revising GERC’s purpose statement on the website, which may require updating the Bylaws and UCC/Faculty Senate approval.
   h. Bylaws Revisions – create State GEM Discipline Group as new standing subcommittee of GERC
   i. Consider developing a Strategic Plan for GERC

7. Adjourn: 4:33 p.m.

Approved by GERC: October 21, 2021 via email ballot
Accepted by UCC: October 21, 2021 via email ballot
Accepted by Faculty Senate: October 25, 2021
Accepted by Academic Affairs: November 5, 2021