Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, October 26th, 2021
Zoom link: https://isu.zoom.us/j/84945656992
2:30-4:30 p.m.
GERC’s website: www.isu.edu/gerc/

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

1. Announcements:
   • ISU received two Commendations and two Recommendations from the accreditors after their site visit. Nothing directly about Gen Ed, but GERC could be affected by the recommendation to disaggregate student outcomes.
   • A call will soon go out to departments to revisit their Assessment Plans. There are three reasons for potential revisions: process drift from approved plans, align with SBOE’s revised learning outcomes, and departments’ desire to update their plans. Revised Plans will be due February 28, 2022.
   • Annual Assessment reports are due this Monday, November 1. GERC will be reviewing those reports in early Spring.

2. Council approved via email vote the Minutes for August 31, 2021, September 14, 2021, September 28, 2021 and October 12, 2021. UCC has accepted the Minutes and forwarded them to Faculty Senate and Associate Deans/Academic Affairs.

3. Updates and Information:
   a. Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert
      • Members encouraged to read the full report from NWCCU when it becomes available; the information may be very helpful for GERC.
      • Have departments work with Ann Hackert as they work on revising Assessment Plans.
      • Ann Hackert and Matt Wilson will get together sometime in the next month or so to go through the Assessment Manual they’ve been working on.
   b. Academic Affairs update – Margaret Johnson
      • Provost Karen Appleby will be hosting a faculty town hall on Academic Freedom on Friday, November 5 at 1:00 p.m. providing updates on the recent legislative changes and how those will impact faculty.
      • Confirmed the SBOE did have the second reading of the GEM outcomes but not sure whether any last-minute changes were made.
   c. UCC update – Carmen Febles
      • UCC changed its proposal form this Spring, adding Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) on a course level and program level. However, this is an information gathering step at the moment, so UCC will not be holding up proposals for incomplete SLOs.
      • Biology’s proposal to remove BIOL 1100L lab course only from the catalog altogether is still in development; it will come to GERC for their consideration and approval before UCC will take it up.
      • If student learning outcomes become more integral to the catalog process, GERC might become more involved with course-level outcomes. The option of UCC creating a new subcommittee to oversee assessment and learning outcomes is also on the table for discussion
• As soon as the UCC proposal to delete BIOL 1100L is submitted and processed it will come to GERC for consideration.

4 Unfinished Business:
   a. Faculty Survey re: Gen Ed Program and Assessment – reformatted for GERC to mark up
      Subcommittee Members: Joanne Tokle, Abbey Hadlich, Jim Stoutenborough (PoliSci)
      Joanne Tokle suggested members go back to their constituent faculty and ask for their input
      before GERC progresses much further with this survey. This is a good time to consider
      making changes to the Gen Ed program since GERC is wrapping up the first Gen Ed
      assessment cycle. Discussion.
      • Some concern about the length of the survey, and whether the questions being posed are still
        relevant.
      • Suggestion to ask faculty whether they would like a new or different Objective.
      • Another suggestion to eliminate the survey questions about Objectives 1 through 6 since those
        are not under ISU’s control. However, ISU faculty do have input on the Objectives, and
        GERC does have purview over which courses belong in each Objective (other than the
        Common Courses).
      • Broad and guiding question about the purpose of general education might be useful to ask.
      • Consider moving forward with the summit or workshops as discussed a couple of years ago
        with the NIOLA coach. The data that could be gathered from such a workshop could be quite
        useful.
      • Languages are difficult to fit into the current gen ed structure. Many faculty still see a lot of
        value of students learning a foreign language.
      • Some concerns whether faculty understanding about general education is too broad to be
        useful; programs traditionally associated with general education could value a well-rounded
        education versus professional programs may have a more narrow focus on preparing students
        for their future occupations.
      • Seeking faculty input is a good step, but GERC has the ultimate responsibility for shaping and
        overseeing the gen ed program.
      • Invite faculty to think creatively about what a gen ed program should look like rather than be
        critically focused on the existing structure.

      ACTION: Joanne Tokle volunteered to come up with a revised draft for members to
      consider next time.

   b. SOWK 1101 Assessment Plan - GERC has approved the course for Objective 6; Plan awaiting revisions.
      • Ann Hackert is working with the Social Work faculty on revisions.

   c. PHIL 2260 Assessment Plan - GERC has approved the course for Objective 7; Plan awaiting revisions

   d. ENGL 2215 proposal as new Objective 9 course (corresponds to AY 2022-23 UCC Proposal #51). Entire
      proposal was remanded last meeting, awaiting revisions. Unclear whether course is better suited for
      Objective 4 or Objective 9.
      • Response from Tom Klein indicated they intend to revise the course from the ground up

   e. ANTH 2203 proposal existing course as new Objective 8 course (no UCC proposal required). Entire
      proposal remanded last meeting, awaiting revisions
      • The impetus behind this proposal is to help students master skills they haven’t been learning as
        well as needed.

      ACTION: Matt Wilson will contact the POs on these proposals and request they resubmit in time for GERC to
      consider on November 12 in order to meet UCC’s catalog deadline.
5. New Business:
   a. Revisit **Process for Selecting ISU’s State Gen Ed Discipline Group Reps**
      – concerns raised re: Director of Composition for Obj. 1; filling mid-term vacancies; Obj 1 & 2 only have 1 dept. each (ENGL & CMP)
      -- follow original protocol for filling Fall 2021 vacancies, start new election process this Spring

      Matt Wilson briefly reviewed the reasons the process was developed, and the problems that have been subsequently identified that need to be addressed. The process was modeled on how other committee representatives are selected. They are essentially a subcommittee of GERC, though GERC will not be reviewing and accepting their work or their minutes.

      Problems are that the English department’s Director of Composition and CMP’s Speech Communications Director have traditionally been the representatives for Objectives 1 and 2. Changing this practice would be detrimental to those two Objectives. The departments have systems in place for choosing their Directors. Discussion. Term limits have some definite drawbacks with continuity, forcing someone off even though they may be very well suited and would prefer to continue serving. On the other hand, there is some value in ensuring someone less suited does not stay on indefinitely, and there is enough turnover that more faculty are involved and become familiar with the work. Electing replacements is a good idea. Consider revising the eligibility requirements to encourage tenured faculty to serve on this committee.

      **ACTION:** Matt Wilson will contact Jim DiSanza and ask whether he has any concerns about the process for selecting Objective 2 rep. Matt will revise the process document to address the concerns about Objectives 1 and 2, and adjust the term limit language as discussed. Still need to address mid-term replacements in the document, calling for emergency elections when needed outside the regular elections.

6. **Current Discipline Group Reps with suggested rotation to be discussed**
   - Margaret Johnson: Obj. 1: Written Communication (CAL) Dir. Of Composition -- replace Spring 2022
   - Hal Hellwig: Obj. 1: Written Communication (CAL) -- seat goes away, no replacement?? Or, have the new Dir. of Comp serve now and take over for Margaret next year?
   - Jim DiSanza: Obj. 2: Oral Communication (CAL) – replace Spring 2023
   - Robert Fisher: Obj. 3: Mathematical (COSE, RCET, TGE, MGT) -- replaced for Fall 2021-Spring 2024
   - Jim Wolper: Obj. 3: Mathematical (COSE, RCET, TGE, MGT) – 2-Year replaced for Fall 2021-Sp 2023
   - Xiao Xia (Jessica) Xie, (CoSE) -- which term should she get: 3-Year or 2-Year?
   - Don Allen, (CoT) - which term should he get: 3-Year or 2-Year?
   - **Ryan Babcock (CAL)** Obj. 4: Humanistic and Artistic (CAL, CSD, TGE) -- Fall 2021 -Spring 2024 replaced **Pat Brooks in Fall 2021**
   - Tom Klein: Obj. 4: Humanistic and Artistic (CAL, CSD, TGE) -- replace Spring 2023
   - Andy Holland: Objective 5: Scientific (COSE, ANTH, NTD) -- replace Spring 2022
   - Eddie Tatar: Objective 5: Scientific (COSE, ANTH, NTD) – replace Spring 2023
   - **Kevin Marsh (CAL):** Objective 6: Social and Behavioral (CAL, ECON, EDUC, TGE)- Fall 2021-Sp 2024 replaced **Gesine Hearn in Fall 2021**
   - Erika Fulton: Objective 6: Social and Behavioral (CAL, ECON, EDUC, TGE) – replace Spring 2022

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: 4:40 p.m.**

Approved by GERC: November 3, 2021 via email vote
Accepted by UCC: November 4, 2021
Accepted by Faculty Senate: November 8, 2021
Accepted by Academic Affairs: November 12, 2021