Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, November 9th, 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, Joanne Tokle, Shu-Yuan Lin, Cathy Gray, DeWayne Derryberry, Ben Crosby,
Ex-officio:  Margaret Johnson, Abbey Hadlich, Ann Hackert, Joann Trimmer, Sacha Johnson, Catherine Read
Excused:  Erika Fulton, Matt Wilson, Carmen Febles (UCC)
Guest:  none

1.  Announcements – none

2.  Council approved the Minutes for October 26, 2021 via email vote 11/3/2021

3.  Updates and Information:
   a.  Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert
       ●  Ann is working with the assessment plan writers for Physics and SOWK 1101; revised plans should be coming through soon
       ●  Matt and Ann have a little more work to do on the Gen Ed Assessment Manual they wrote this summer; will bring it to GERC for members to look over soon.

   b.  Academic Affairs update – Margaret Johnson -- none this week
       ●  SBOE approved revised GEM outcomes, will need to update the Gen Ed section of the catalog via Proposal #70 below.
       ●  No decision from OSBE yet whether the GEM Rubric will be mandated by the state.  The answer will determine how much departments will need to update their assessment plans.

   c.  UCC update –
       Proposals are coming through more slowly this year, but will get done in time for the catalog.  As several proposals are still being developed, unclear at this time whether further changes to gen ed courses will need GERC’s review and approval.

   d.  English has WITHDRAWN the ENGL 2215 proposal.  Since the new course would not be suited for Objective 9, and the department already has several Objective 4 Gen Ed courses, they have decided not to create the course at this time.  The department may bring a revised proposal to GERC in the future.

   e.  Anthropology has WITHDRAWN, for now at least, their ANTH 2203 proposal existing course as new Objective 8 course (no UCC proposal required).  They may bring a revised proposal back to GERC in the future.

   f.  Patty Sanchez from OSBE is checking with OSBE staff on status of GEM Rubrics and whether they will be/are mandated for use by institutions.  SBOE Policy III.N.2.b: “Establish shared rubrics that guide course/general education program assessment;” – this did not change in the revised policy approved by SBOE in October 2021. OSBE’s answer will affect how departments will need to revise their Assessment Plans this Fall/early Spring in accordance with the newly approved revisions to GEM Objective Competencies.

4 Unfinished Business:
   a.  SOWK 1101 Assessment Plan - GERC has approved the course for Objective 6; Plan has been revised
and is ready for consideration.

GERC members wanted more time to consider the revisions; deferred until the next meeting.

b. **PHIL 2260 Assessment Plan** - GERC has **approved the course** for Objective 7; **Plan** awaiting revisions
   No progress on this one yet; still awaiting revisions.

c. Revisions to **Process for Selecting ISU’s State Gen Ed Discipline Group Reps**
   Some discussion of the proposed revisions, but no action taken; deferred until the next meeting.

**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**

5. **New Business:**

a. **Draft GERC email to departments soliciting input on Gen Ed Program** – from Joanne Tokle as discussed last meeting
   Subcommittee Members: Joanne Tokle, Abbey Hadlich, Jim Stoutenborough (PoliSci)
   Original **Faculty Survey re: Gen Ed Program and Assessment.** See Oct. 26 Minutes for GERC’s concerns.

Members made a few adjustments to the wording. Each representative will distribute the message to their individual constituents and collect the faculty responses, which they will provide to GERC members.

**ACTION:** Moved and seconded to approve the email to constituents as revised. Motion **passed.**

Members will email the message to their respective constituent faculty (not just department chairs). Joanne Tokle will distribute to faculty in College of Health and College of Pharmacy, since the two Health Science seats on GERC are both vacant.

**ACTION:** Council decided to meet on November 30, in lieu of November 23 that falls during Thanksgiving Break.

b. **Objective Review Committee (ORC) Report Action Items** - develop a plan and timeline

1) Consider suggested changes to **Objective 7 Outcomes 4 and 5:**

   The committee suggests slight changes in verbage to Outcomes 4 and 5

   4. Create, analyze, and **evaluate/interpret evaluate and/or interpret** diverse perspectives and solutions. (The committee agreed that not all courses in Objective 7 can accomplish all aspects of this outcome so “and/or” was inserted for flexibility)
5. Establish Articulate a reasoned framework for drawing conclusions and/or recommending solutions. (The committee agreed that “articulate” is more measurable than “establish”)

2) Consider creating subcommittee to update Objective 8 outcomes [bolded emphasis added]
Considering the significant development of the technologies that have mediated and continue to mediate the creation, distribution, and use of information over the past 20 years, the committee would recommend that GERC consider updating Objective 8 outcomes. Since the conception of this Objective at ISU, the Association of College and Research Libraries’ (ACRL) Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (2000) (pp. 2-3) from which the Objective 8 outcomes were derived have been supplanted by a new set of standards, the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education (2016); in light of this, the GERC may wish to revise the current Objective 8 competencies to conform to the ACRL’s new information literacy standards.

Current competencies:
- Determine the nature and extent of the information/data needed to accomplish a specific purpose.
- Identify sources and gather information/data effectively and efficiently.
- Evaluate credibility of sources and information/data.
- Understand the economics, ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding the creation, collection, and use of information/data.
- Use information/data effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.

**ACTION:** Motion and seconded to approve the Objective 7 changes for inclusion in Proposal #70 and table the Objective 8 changes until the new semester after faculty feedback on the Gen Ed program is received and reviewed. Motion passed unanimously; the changes to Objective 7 were entered into Proposal #70,

c. UCC Proposal #70 DRAFT from GERC to update the Gen Ed Program section of the catalog with new Gen Ed courses and GEM Outcomes.
   So far, the new Gen Ed courses PHIL 2260 and SOWK 1101 added, GEM Competencies updated to match revised SBOE Policy III.N. Unknown as yet whether UCC Proposals still in development will affect Gen Ed courses or Program – Catherine will check on this.
   Not ready for consideration yet. The changes to Objective 7 competencies as approved above were added to the proposal.

d. UCC Proposal #30 from Biology to remove BIOL 1100L lab only from the catalog. Requires GERC approval to approve removing the lab from the Gen Ed program.
   Much discussion on the broader ramifications of removing one of the few lab courses available to students in non-science majors with weaker Math skills, and on the Gen Ed program as whole. Another week of thoughtful consideration and discussion with faculty constituents is warranted before voting on this proposal. Many courses in Objective 5 are heavily skewed toward students with better math and science skills and interests.

   **ACTION:** Members decided to postpone this proposal until next meeting on November 30 to allow more time to assess the impact of removing this lab option from the Gen Ed program. Joanne Tokle will check with the affected programs to make sure they have carefully considered the broader implications on their students, particularly where the MATH 1108 placement prerequisite in many labs could preclude many students from taking those courses.

6. Placeholders for Unfinished Business for future agendas:
   a. Assessment Plan Audit and Reporting Compilations
   b. Objective 8 Working Group update – Spencer Jardine
c. Pilot assessment project
d. Revisit Annual Assessment Report Questions in Qualtrics
e. Consider revising GERC’s purpose statement on the website, which may require updating the Bylaws and UCC/Faculty Senate approval.
f. Bylaws Revisions – create State GEM Discipline Group as new standing subcommittee of GERC
g. Consider developing a Strategic Plan for GERC

7. Adjourn: 4:38 p.m.

Approved by GERC: November 30, 2021
Accepted by UCC: December 2, 2021
Accepted by Faculty Senate: December 15, 2021 via email vote
Accepted by Academic Affairs: December 22, 2021