Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, December 14th, 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: Abbey Hadlich, Ann Hackert, Sacha Johnson, Catherine Read
Excused: Margaret Johnson, Joann Trimmer, Carmen Febles (UCC)
Guest: none

1. Announcements – none

2. Council approved the Minutes for November 30, 2021

3. Updates and Information:
   a. Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert
      • Next semester departments will turn in their annual reports, and will develop rubrics to evaluate those reports and their program reviews. Ann Hackert is working with the University Assessment Committee, and is hoping to provide feedback to departments by the end of January.
      • Please read the NWCCU report shared with GERC members.
      • The Office of Assessment is still planning to pilot an assessment system for a couple of Gen Ed Objectives, and will bring the ideas to GERC later this spring.

   b. Academic Affairs update – Margaret Johnson: none

   c. UCC update – Carmen Febles: none

4 Unfinished Business:
   a. Resolve whether to change annual assessment reporting from binary “meets/does not meet” to 3- or 4-tier reporting.
      • GERC had concerns that annual assessment reporting is binary (S/U) whereas many dept. rubrics in their assessment plans are multi-tiered
      • Binary does not show progress in student learning, whereas 3- or 4-tier reporting does
      Reference documents to help guide this discussion:
        • List of Gen Ed Course Rubrics from departments’ Assessment Plans - compiled by Joanne Tokle
        • Draft SBOE Rubrics for reference: all have 3-tiered levels as confirmed with Patty Sanchez at the Office of the State Board of Education:
          Objective 1 Rubrics: Entry-Level, Meets, Exceeds
          Objective 2 Rubrics: Entry-Level, Meets, Exceeds
          Objective 3 Rubrics: Does Not Meet, Partially Meets, Meets
          Objective 4 Rubrics: Entry-Level, Meets, Exceeds
          Objective 5 Rubrics: Entry-Level, Meets, Exceeds
          Objective 6 Rubrics: Entry-Level, Meets, Exceeds
      A call to departments needs to go out this week to revisit their Gen Ed Courses Assessment Plans to ensure the plans are up-to-date with current practice and align with the updated learning outcomes revised this semester. Question to resolve today is to decide whether to change from binary reporting to more scaler multi-tier reporting, and standardizing the tiers to be used. The Gen Ed assessment reporting questions will be changed in Qualtrics this summer to match the updated GEM outcomes anyway, so GERC has this spring to finalize all changes they want to make to those questions. Discussion ensued debating the merits and practicality of binary versus scaler reporting. Grades are not appropriate for assessing the outcomes since grades reflect the entire course not just the gen ed learning outcomes. Good support for making all changes at once rather than piecemeal over the next few years. Departments use their own category tiers in evaluating how well their
students are performing and improving, but those tiers may differ from anything GERC or the State might ask for. Unclear whether that degree of granularity is necessary in what is reported to GERC since departments will use their own metrics to inform their decision-making.

**ACTION:** Consensus was to leave the binary reporting in place, at least for now.

This concluded the important business for this fall; the remaining items will be taken up next semester.

5. **Deferred until next semester (placeholders):**
   a. [SOWK 1101 Assessment Plan](#) - GERC has approved the course for Objective 6; Plan was remanded for revision in accordance with GERC’s suggestions, and to include an assessment schedule, and not conflate grading with assessment.

   b. [PHIL 2260 Assessment Plan](#) - GERC has approved the course for Objective 7; Plan awaiting revisions

   c. Gen Ed Assessment Training Manual – Ann Hackert and Matt Wilson – not received yet

   d. Revised Physics Assessment Plans – have not been received yet

   e. [Gen Ed Program Feedback from Faculty](#)

6. **Placeholders for Unfinished Business for future agendas:**
   a. Assessment Plan Audit and Reporting Compilations
   b. Objective 8 outcome changes – early Spring 2022 after faculty feedback is received
   c. Pilot assessment project
   d. Revisit [Annual Assessment Report Questions](#) in Qualtrics
      - Changes to report questions will create a new spreadsheet, not add to existing cumulative spreadsheet
      - Vince currently provides to GERC
   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: 3:50 pm**

Approved by GERC: January 25, 2022
Accepted by UCC: February 2, 2022 via email vote
Accepted by Faculty Senate: February 7, 2022
Accepted by Academic Affairs: February 9, 2022