Minutes  
General Education Requirements Committee  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
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, Carmen Febles (UCC), Catherine Read  
Excused: Joann Trimmer, Margaret Johnson  
Guest: none  

1. Announcements –  
   ● Information item:  GERC Assessment Reporting Status – new 5-Year Reports are linked, and annual 2020-21 assessment reports received so far are indicated by “X”的 in the first column (ignore color-coding for now). Some annual reports are still missing; they were due January 18. The available 2020-21 reports will be provided to GERC members soon to start working on the annual Feedback Summaries.  
   ● Elections are being initiated through Faculty Senate to select two Discipline Group reps: one rep for Objective 1 and one rep for Objective 5. Nominations are open to all eligible faculty in the relevant departments.  

2. Council approved the Minutes for January 25, 2022  

3. Updates and Information:  
   a. Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert  
      ● Members were informed Ann Hackert plans to include a screenshot of this GERC meeting in the Assessment Manual. No objections registered.  
      ● Gen Ed Workshop: Streamlining Gen Ed Assessment Plans  
         ○ All interested faculty encouraged to attend. The workshop will be recorded, and potentially may be posted on GERC’s website as a helpful resource.  
         ○ A Math faculty member has developed a website and initiative to communicate workshop information to Early College faculty asynchronously.  
   
   b. Academic Affairs update – Margaret Johnson  
      The annual Statewide Gen Ed Summit has been canceled this year. The next Summit will be held this Fall on October 5-7, 2022.  

   c. UCC update – Carmen Febles  
      New proposal form for the 2023-24 catalog cycle is being developed. UCC is still on hiatus until the new cycle begins in a few weeks.  

4 Unfinished Business:  
      Ann Hackert explained she and Matt Wilson wrote this manual last summer as a tool that can be distributed to faculty to help them understand the purpose of assessing Gen Ed courses, GERC’s role in assessment, and what the expectations are. Members made a few suggestions to be incorporated. To ensure this manual is ready for use in the upcoming Workshop, any revisions to this document should be finalized at the next GERC meeting. It would be helpful to include a timeline of GERC’s assessment process.  
      
      ACTION: Members will review the manual between now and next meeting and register suggested edits, comments, concerns, etc.
b. **SOWK 1101 Assessment Plan** – Plan revisions are ready for GERC’s review
   
   Discussion. Much focus on the problematic use of grades and rubrics in assessment.
   
   - Criteria used to evaluate grades would have to be geared solely toward the criteria for the given outcome. Grades cannot include any other factors unrelated to that particular outcome.
   
   - As a good example, SBOE’s rubrics use very good verbs that accurately describe student achievement at the various levels. SBOE Obj 6 Rubric:
   
   - Make sure the learning outcomes have been updated to match the recently revised GEM outcomes as approved by SBOE.

   No action taken on this Plan yet. Matt Wilson will contact the department with GERC’s concerns and suggestions.

c. **PHIL 2260 Assessment Plan** - GERC has **approved the course** for Objective 7; **Plan** awaiting revisions
   
   No action; still awaiting revisions from department.

d. Revised Physics Assessment Plans – **have not been received yet, but are under way.**

   Physics has a new department chair; suggestion made to reach out to him and offer help.

e. Subcommittee to revise Objective 8 competencies – after faculty feedback received and reviewed **Phil Homan** from the Library has agreed to Chair this subcommittee – revisions due end of March

   Cathy Gray and Ann Hackert are GERC reps on that subcommittee.

   **ACTION:** Matt Wilson will reach out to Phil Homan and set up a meeting with this subcommittee.

5. **New Business**

   a. Gen Ed Courses slated for removal from Catalog and from the Gen Ed Program for Fall 2023

   Global Studies & Languages department wants to drop obsolete language courses that are no longer being taught. A UCC proposal will be coming through later in the semester for GERC’s consideration.

   - ARBC 2201, 2202
   - CHNS 2201, 2202
   - CMLT 2207
   - GERM 2201, 2202

   - GLBL 2207, 2270
   - LATN 2201, 2202
   - RUSS 2201, 2202

   Carmen Febles met with GERC’s Executive Committee last Friday and explained the upper division language courses that are not part of majors are being slated for elimination. The CMLT courses are likely to change to GLBL prefix. The department is currently in transition. Suggest creating a departmental assessment committee to coordinate among the various language instructors to assure consistency. Assessing for Gen Ed learning outcomes could possibly be done by faculty regardless of language proficiency. GERC does not expect annual or five-year reports for these obsolete courses not being taught.

   b. **Gen Ed Survey** draft – Joanne Tokle – **deferred until next meeting for discussion**

   c. Nominations for next year’s Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Secretary

   **eligible members:** Erika Fulton, Joanne Tokle, Shu-Yuan Lin, Cathy Gray, DeWayne Derryberry

   Consider whom to nominate for next year’s officers; make sure the nominees are willing.

   d. Divide up Feedback Summary workload – **deferred until next meeting for discussion**

   Use the template to be provided, and create separate documents for each course.

6. **Placeholders for Unfinished Business for future agendas:**

   a. **Bylaws Revisions** – create State GEM Discipline Group as new standing subcommittee of GERC
b. Annual Gen Ed Feedback Summaries  
c. Assessment Plan Audit and Reporting Compilations  
d. Pilot assessment project  
e. 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  
f. Consider revising GERC’s purpose statement on the website, which may require updating the Bylaws and  
     UCC/Faculty Senate approval.  
g. Consider developing a Strategic Plan for GERC  

7. **Adjourn: 4:31 pm**

Approved by GERC: April 15, 2022 via email vote  
Accepted by UCC: April 18, 2022 via email vote  
Accepted by Faculty Senate: April 25, 2022  
Accepted by Academic Affairs: April 22, 2022