Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, March 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, Catherine Read
Excused:       Margaret Johnson, Joann Trimmer, Carmen Febles (UCC)
Guest:           Iris Buder

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”’s in the first column (ignore color-coding
   for now).  Still awaiting for one more assessment report; the faculty member is working hard to get it done
   and submitted.  Two more Objective 9 Five-Year Reports came in, also.  The Qualtrics Gen Ed survey will
   be shut off on or about March 20 to close out this reporting cycle.  An updated survey will be prepared
   over the summer for implementation in Fall 2022.
   ● Meeting schedule adjustment: Next regular meeting falls during Spring Break, will likely need to
   schedule an additional meeting at the end of March to make up for Spring Break.  Then only two more
   meetings in April before the semester ends.
   ● Gen Ed Assessment Training Manual - completed and put in a Box folder with other training resources for
   faculty to reference.  Link to the Box folder will be on both GERC website and Assessment website.
   ● OER Resources Presentation – Iris Buder - guest speaker
   Iris is on the SBOE and university-wide Open Educational Resource committees that have been working
   on identifying and implementing high-quality free or affordable textbooks and class materials.  Faculty
   survey collected feedback from faculty, which the committee compiled into specific recommendations for
   implementing ORE resources beginning Spring 2023.  Committee is now asking for additional feedback
   from GERC, Faculty Senate, Department Chairs, Deans, etc. for the committee to incorporate into final
   recommendations. Internally ISU is looking for high returns on investment. Iris Buder answered
   members’ questions.
   ● FIN 1115 Assessment Plan revisions – New Business item below on this agenda
   As a preliminary overview, Iris Buder explained the changes made to the plan and the rationale for them.
   As this is new business, GERC members have a couple of weeks to review and prepare before this plan
   comes up for consideration.  Bear in mind the Objective 8 Competencies Review subcommittee is working
   on potential revisions to the Objective 8 learning outcomes that will be coming to GERC for consideration
   in the next couple of weeks.  The revised learning outcomes may have a bearing on this Plan.  Discussion.

Iris Buder left the meeting at this time as she had to get to class.


3.   Updates and Information:
   a.  Program Review & Assessment updates – Ann Hackert
      Assessment Workshop recap: The workshop went well, and Ann Hackert was quite pleased with the
      questions and ideas shared by the participants.  The workshop was recorded and will be close-
      captioned.  The Assessment Office’s newsletter will come out after Spring Break, and will include a
      link to the workshop video and materials.
   b.  Academic Affairs update – none
   c.  UCC update – UCC is still on hiatus for now.
4 Unfinished Business:
   a. Gen Ed Survey draft – Joanne Tokle
      Members discussed the document and suggested a few wording changes. The open-ended questions
      will help get a better understanding of how faculty perceive the gen ed program and what changes they
      would like to see, if any.

      **ACTION:** Joanne Tokle will make the suggested changes and send a Beta test of the survey to
      GERC members to fill out and see how the survey works. The test results will be prepared and
      discussed at the next meeting.

   b. SOWK 1101 Assessment Plan - revised and ready for GERC’s review
      The revisions look good.

      **MOTION:** to approve the SOWK 1101 Assessment Plan. Motion seconded. Motion **passed**.

   e. PHIL 2260 Assessment Plan - GERC has **approved the course** for Objective 7; Plan awaiting revisions
      Nothing new on this one yet.

   f. Revised Physics Assessment Plans – **have not been received yet; the department is working on these.**

   g. Objective 8 Competencies Review Subcommittee – update (revisions are due to GERC end of March)
      Members: **Phil Homan (Chair), Cathy Gray, Ann Hackert**
      The working group will be meeting tomorrow, so their report should be coming through soon.

      Some further discussion ensued about the problematic use of multiple choice questions in measuring
      student understanding. Recognition expressed that long answers and essays are not practical for large class
      sizes. GERC should come up with some consistent guidance that can be applied to most assessment plans.

   h. Establish assessment standards to provide consistent guidance to departments
      **Require rubrics? If so, what should they be?**
      **Prospective MOTION for consideration**
      Assessment plans should include procedures, guidelines, or rubrics to evaluate whether
      targets have been met. Units are encouraged to consider using SBOE or AAC&U American
      Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) rubrics that are readily available.

      Discussion continued. Wording needs to clearly communicate what is expected in assessment
      plans. Debated pros and cons of analytic rubrics versus descriptive rubrics.

      **Suggested language:** Assessment plans should include procedures and guidelines or
      descriptive rubrics to evaluate whether targets have been met. Units developing rubrics are
      suggested to **model them after SBOE or AAC&U American Association of Colleges and
      Universities (AAC&U) rubrics that are readily available.** paying particular attention to ..... OR:
      Assessment plans should include procedures and guidelines or rubrics, descriptive or analytic,
      to evaluate whether targets have been met.

      **Due to time constraints, this discussion will be continued at the next meeting.**
      The remaining agenda items were deferred until next meeting:

   i. Divide up Feedback Summary workload – 2 GERC faculty members per group
      Use the template to be provided (forthcoming) and create separate documents for each course.
      **Group 1** (31): **Objective 4: Fine Arts** (11) **Objective 4: Humanities** (9) **Objective 7** (11)
      **Group 2** (31): **Objective 3** (13) **Objective 6** (16+2)
      **Group 3** (31): **Objective 9** (16) **Objective 4: Languages** (14+1)
5. New Business
   a. FIN 1115 Assessment Plan – revised and ready for GERC’s review
   b. Bylaws Revisions – create State GEM Discipline Group as new standing subcommittee of GERC

6. Placeholders for Unfinished Business for future agendas:
   a. 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
   b. Assessment Plan Audit and Reporting Compilations
   c. Pilot assessment project
   d. Consider revising GERC’s purpose statement on the website, which may require updating the Bylaws and
      UCC/Faculty Senate approval.
   f. Consider developing a Strategic Plan for GERC

7. Adjourn: 4:33 p.m.

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

APPENDIX

OER Presentation with Recommendations
Purpose of the Committee

• The Idaho State Board of Education has directed Idaho's eight public institutions of higher education to submit an initial Open Educational Resource report by June 1, 2022 as part of SBOE Policy III.U. - Instructional Material Access and Affordability.
• The report communicates each institution's implementation plans and goals for Instructional Material Access and Affordability.

Achievements

• Regular committee meetings since last Fall
• Presented to Faculty Senate & Dean's Council
• A Qualtrics OER survey went out to all instructors in November 2021.
• From this, recommendations constructed.
• Literature review conducted to confirm OER efficacy and overall quality.
• https://openedgroup.org/review

Survey

• November 16 – December 3, 2021
• 15 questions
• Received 272 complete responses
  • A total of 310 responses were received
    • 11 responses were 40% complete
    • 27 responses were 67% complete

Survey Results

• Top priorities when selecting or adopting course materials
  • Educational quality
  • Cost to students
• 105 instructors said they were not involved in textbook affordability activities.
• 208 instructors were interested in creating new free/affordable materials or using existing materials to develop or update a course.
Survey Results

- Top incentives for creating new free or open course materials
  - Stipend
  - Professional development funds
  - Consideration of efforts on Annual Evaluation Reports and/or promotion processes
- Top incentives for adopting new free or open course materials
  - Stipend
  - Professional development funds

Recommendations

1. Update course schedule to include OER course markings (beginning Spring 2023, $0 and $1-30)
2. Create stipend opportunities for: (1) OER creation and (2) course development affordability projects (already underway this Spring)
3. Identify courses at ISU with high return on investment for OER or affordability projects
4. Promote the inclusion of OER/affordability work in Annual Evaluation Reports and P/T processes

5. Offer professional development opportunities related to OER and affordability
6. Address misconceptions and increase awareness of OER and affordability work on campus
7. Encourage the adoption of affordability values in ISU leadership and faculty

Next Steps

- Committee continuing to meet and complete draft of report for the SBOE.
- Asking for feedback from:
  - Colleges, department chairs, faculty
  - Deans Council - March 1, 2022
  - Faculty Senate - April 11, 2022
  - Leadership Council - April 18, 2022
  - Administrative Council - May 9, 2022
- Submit report to the State Board of Education - May 23, 2022 (due by June 1)

Questions and Feedback

1. Suggestions or concerns?
2. Ways to encourage adoption/creation of OER and/or more affordable course materials?
3. Ways to best communicate to faculty and programs/departments about these initiatives?