Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, 27 August 2019
Faculty Senate Conference Room REND 340
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Attendance: Jennifer Attebery, Neil Tocher, Shu-Yuan Lin, Spencer Jardine, Leonid Hanin, Matt Wilson, Tayo Omotowa, Paul Cady
Ex-officio: Joanne Tokle, Ann Hackert, Sarah Mead, Mark Cooper (ITRC), Susanne Forrest, Catherine Read
Excused: Geoffrey Bennett (UCC)
Guests: none

1. Welcome and Introductions – Spencer Jardine, as acting Chair, welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves.
   - Jardine suggested new members peruse GERC’s website prior to next meeting for info regarding this committee’s work. GERC approves new courses to be added to the Gen Ed Program, and also reviews and approves course assessment plans. GERC also reviews annual course assessment reports and 5-Year Reports submitted by departments, and coordinates reviews of the Objectives themselves on a five year rolling schedule.
   - In spite of recent emphasis on initiating gen ed assessment program, GERC’s intended purview extends to broader elements of the gen ed program.

2. Minutes – none, all were approved last Spring

3. Information & Updates –
   a. SBOE/IRSA initiatives to be aware of:
      - Complete College America/Momentum Pathways (Game-changers)
      - Credit for Prior Learning/Experiential Learning – including awarding credit for military experience
      - Open Educational Resources (OER) -- this summer some ISU faculty were given small grants to develop and implement in Spring 2020 at least one section of gen ed course using free or low-cost textbooks and materials
      - Credit for CLEP and AP Exams – statewide alignment of credit articulation across institutions
   
   b. UARC (University Assessment & Review Committee) update
      - Ann Hackert arranged for a NILOA coach come to ISU to conduct assessment workshops. He will attend GERC’s October 22 meeting to discuss gen ed issues.
      - UARC is also working with Aqua to develop an assessment tool whereby students can upload their assignments into Moodle, and then directly into Aqua, allowing for easy collection of student work to be used by faculty and departments in assessment activities.

4. Upcoming GERC due dates:
   a. September 20, 2019 – all new Gen Ed course proposals/assessment plans
   b. October 1, 2019 – send reminder to department chairs that annual assessment reports are due on November 1, and also that Objectives 5 and 6 are due for 5-Year Review this January
   c. November 1, 2019 – annual Gen Ed Course Assessment Reports – one report per Gen Ed course
   d. January 7, 2020 – 5-Year Reports for Objective 5 and Objective 6 courses
   e. January 8, 2020 – appoint GERC members to chair the Objective Review Committees for Obj 5 & 6
   f. April 1, 2020 – Objective Review Committee (ORC) Reports are due

5. GERC concerns/recommendations for statewide Gen Ed Committee and Objective Discipline Groups
   a. Statewide Gen Ed Summit Sept 19 & 20 in Boise – Objectives and Rubrics are posted on SBOE’s website under “related” on the right-hand side of the webpage (the Rubrics are a new addition to the
Objectives – they have apparently become official

- possible changes to learning outcomes for each Objective – are the learning outcomes suitable for effective assessment, and do they identify core elements of the subject area as intended?
- specific recommendations from ORC Reports for Objectives 1 thru 4
- disparity of dual credit instructor qualifications across colleges is an ongoing concern

There will be a presenter at the Gen Ed Summit who has some assessment expertise who will work with the discipline groups on effective ways of assessing general education programs and courses. Randall Brumfield, the Chief Academic Officer at the Office of the State Board of Education, confirmed to Academic Affairs in a meeting this morning, that the discipline groups will have an opportunity to revise the learning outcomes for each GEM Objective at this Summit.

Jardine will invite ISU’s discipline group representatives to attend the next GERC meeting to discuss concerns with the Objective learning outcomes in advance of the Summit.

6. New Officer Elections – the incoming GERC chair left ISU over the summer
   **Spencer Jardine** was nominated and subsequently elected unanimously to serve as **Chair**.
   **Matt Wilson** was nominated and elected to serve as **Vice Chair**.

7. Assessment Plans still missing: Physics (all) and MATH 1143 & 1147 – nothing new

8. Other Business – none this week

9. Adjourn: 3:28 p.m.

Approved by GERC: October 12, 2019
Accepted by UCC: October 24, 2019
Accepted by Faculty Senate: October 28, 2019
Accepted by Academic Affairs: November 8, 2019