Minutes
General Education Requirements Committee
Tuesday, 24 September 2019
Academic Affairs Conference Room AA 102
2:30-4:30 p.m.

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

1. Announcements

2. Minutes – August 27, 2019 and September 10, 2019

3. UCC / UCC Executive Committee update
   As UCC Chair, Geoffrey Bennett will be sending a letter to Faculty Senate asking for their help in encouraging faculty to serve on councils. Ann Hackert said assessment groups are experiencing the same problem in getting faculty to participate. Spencer Jardine reported the same concern was brought up by faculty at the Gen Ed Summit last week. Annual evaluation procedures do not reward service, nor are there any other rewards nor incentives.

   Spencer Jardine reported he has been reviewing UCC catalog proposals on behalf of GERC. So far, there are no proposals that affect Gen Ed courses except for a Dance course title change.

4. Statewide Gen Ed Summit – debrief and update
   Spencer Jardine reported the assessment consultant suggested simplifying the gen ed outcomes and gearing them toward an audience of parents and businesses. Some confusion became apparent during discussion among discipline group members whether the competencies are the metrics to assess the courses in the Objective, or to assess whether a particular course belongs in the Gen Ed program under that Objective. Need to change the message to students that gen ed is not something to get done so it’s out of the way, but that there is inherent value in broadening one’s horizons. Transfer students are reluctant to come to ISU when they are told they will need to repeat some courses in order to fulfill the gen ed requirements.

   The Summit was intended to facilitate thinking about gen ed as a whole, not to create a particular work product to be implemented.

   It is in GERC’s purview to reconsider the Gen Ed program as a whole, in particular Objectives 7, 8, and 9. Discussion ensued. No impetus to make changes this year since Objectives 5 and 6 will be reviewed this year, and Objectives 7 and 8 the following year. Those review reports will provide more solid data to consider in evaluating the Gen Ed Program. It also would be a good idea to take a look at other models of Gen Ed programs used by other institutions. What is general education, what does it look like, what should students get out of it?

4. Upcoming GERC due dates:
   a. **October 1, 2019** – send reminder to department chairs that Objectives 5 and 6 are due for 5-Year Review this January
   b. **November 1, 2019** – annual Gen Ed Course Assessment Reports – one report per Gen Ed course
   c. **January 7, 2020** – 5-Year Reports for Objective 5 and Objective 6 courses
   d. **January 8, 2020** – appoint GERC members to chair the Objective Review Committees for Obj 5 & 6
   e. **April 1, 2020** – Objective Review Committee (ORC) Reports
Spencer Jardine will coordinate with administrative assistant whether to change the due date for Five-Year Reports. Members should think about which Objective Review Committees they might like to chair.

5. SBOE/IRSA initiatives – Nothing new to report.
   - Complete College America/Momentum Pathways (Game-changers)
   - Credit for Prior Learning
   - Open Educational Resources (OER)
   - Credit for CLEP and AP Exams – statewide alignment of credit articulation across institutions

6. UARC (University Assessment & Review Committee) update
   - NILOA coach coming to ISU and will attend GERC’s **October 22** meeting;
   - developing 2-3 outcomes for the group for 2019-2020

   UARC is working on some projects which they plan to complete in the spring. A college is interested in Beta testing Aqua for collecting student work into Moodle and Aqua this fall that they can use for assessment this spring. Intent is to have Aqua available for those units who want to use it for data collection and assessment. Use of Aqua will be voluntary. The UARC committee is focusing on the logistics for the NILOA coach’s visit to ISU. Agenda and workshop sessions have been set. He will attend GERC’s regular meeting that day.

7. Assessment Plans still missing: Physics (all) and MATH 1143 & 1147 – no action

8. Other Business –
   - Disparity of dual credit instructor qualifications across colleges is an ongoing concern.
     - Suggestion was made at higher levels to State Board Office to consider assigning high schools to work with the colleges and universities in their own region instead of around the state.

9. Adjourn: 3:27 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