

MINUTES
General Education Committee
September 14, 2021
2:30-4:00 p.m.
GLC 103

Members present: Stephen Contakes (Professor of Chemistry), Michelle Hardley (Registrar), Steve Hodson (Professor of Music), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director of the Westmont Library), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Greg Spencer (Professor of Communication Studies),

I. Prayer – Stephen Contakes

II. Approve the Minutes of April 21st

The meeting minutes were approved with one minor change.

III. Election of the Chair

Tatiana nominated Stephen Contakes to serve as the chair of the committee. This nomination was unanimously approved.

IV. Discussion of GE Contributions to the WSCUC interim report

Tim Loomer is working on the interim report to WSCUC. He identified the various pages of the report that involve the GE Committee's work, including the recent work on the Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity GE category.

Committee members provided feedback to these areas, including noting the correct definition of the JRD acronym (Reconciliation, not Race as originally written). There was a concern over whether this report includes enough information to accurately represent all of our work, or whether we should include more information on the JRD category and its current state. Since the committee does not have a copy of the full report, it is hard to say if additional details are needed.

Tatiana will follow up with Tim Loomer on the feedback from the committee.

V. Setting the committee's schedule and tracks of work

A. Syllabus Review for the Reasoning Abstractly Assessment

David VanderLaan will be leading the review of the Reasoning Abstractly GE area this year. He has only asked for our help with the syllabus review process.

Tatiana assigned the syllabi to each member of the committee for review. There will be two reviewers per syllabus which leaves each committee member with 2-3 syllabi to evaluate. The syllabus review should focus on

how closely the syllabi align to the syllabus template and whether they clearly cover the needed certification criteria for the GE area.

Stephen Contakes has requested that we finish our syllabi review by the next GE Committee meeting and note our evaluations in the Google spreadsheet. Tatiana will take the lead on ensuring the completion of this track of work.

B. Continued Justice, Reconciliation and Diversity (JRD) Work

It has been reported to us that the trustees are in favor of the JRD category but that work remains to be done on the language. We anticipate additional work in this area starting in October. Stephen Contakes will lead this track of work.

C. Modern Language Department's Proposal

The Modern Language department will be presenting a proposal to change the Modern Foreign Language GE. The proposal would be to change the GE requirement from a one semester requirement to achieving a level of competency in a language. The department would like us to review the proposal and provide a note of support prior to submitting it to Academic Senate. The goal is to have the proposal written for GE Committee consideration in time for our next meeting.

Tatiana will take the lead on working with Mary Doctor on this track of work.

D. Serving Society (and by extension Communicating Cross-Culturally)

The GE Committee has intended to focus on this GE area for a number of years but a number of institutional priorities prevented this work. Making progress in this area is a main goal for this academic year.

Steve Hodson reviewed the research he completed last semester and the committee discussed next steps to move the project forward. Steve also sent an email with links to the service programs at other schools. Having a short presentation at a faculty forum on the GE category followed by table talk could be a good way forward in assessing the community's perspective. Steve Hodson offered to prepare and deliver the presentation if needed.

Stephen Contakes will reach out to Eileen McQuade and Patti Hunter to see if we can secure a Faculty Forum time in October.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Hardley