



General Education Council

April 26, 2017

MU, PKP Room

Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Steve Lovett, Chris Stone, Mohammed Rahman, Jo Kord, Rich Sleezer, Sheila Markowitz, Shawna Shane, Heidi Hamilton, Kathy Landwehr, Joan Brewer, David McKenzie

ABSENT: Alrick Johnson, Nkem Nwogu and Sarah Clark (graduated), Amy Sage Webb, Jim Costello, and Jo Kord

GUEST: Rachele Smith (proxy for Amy Sage Webb)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made to approve March 8, 2017 minutes and seconded. Motion was approved. 6 voted to approve with one abstention. Motion was made to approve April 5, 2017 minutes and seconded. A few corrections were suggested. Motion to approve with corrections was voted on. Minutes were approved (6 voted for approval with one abstention).

2. OLD BUSINESS: Editing the Goals 2-6

- a. Status and direction-Lovett discussed with the Council progress made throughout the academic year toward editing General Education Goals. Edits to Goal 1 were completed but due to the volume of other business the remaining goals still need attention. Lovett stated that the efforts of the subcommittee (Hamilton, Webb and Brewer) facilitated completion of goal 1. The suggestion was to follow a similar strategy for the remaining goals.

3. Planning Ahead:

a. Next Year's Council Representatives

1. LA&S-McKenzie will stay on for two more years to finish his term. Dr. Shi (Mathematics) was elected at the LA&S Assembly to take Hamilton's

position. The Dean's appointed position this year was Webb and she has agreed to serve another year.

2. Teachers College-Costello volunteered to serve this year and will have a replacement as soon as the Teachers College has their fall faculty meeting. Shane has only served for one year and will continue her service on the Council, and Brewer will continue as the Dean appointed representative from the Teachers College.
 3. School of Business-Lovett serves one more year. Stone has two more years and Rahman was the Dean's appointed person but would like to serve another term.
 4. Student Representatives: Student representatives for the General Education Council meetings have not been reliable attendees. Lovett suggested visiting with the ASG President and Vice President before the end of the semester. One question raised was "Do the student representatives have to be appointed by ASG?" One suggestion was to have department Chairs pick/suggest representatives from their areas.
 5. The location for meetings next year was also discussed. Lovett suggested having the meetings in the Memorial Union if available for next year. Massoth was tasked with scheduling a room or rooms in the Memorial Union for next year's meetings.
- b. Summer Work-Soliciting Volunteers: Lovett discussed with the Council that he would like to continue sub-committee work on General Education initiatives over the summer. The suggestion was to have three separate subcommittees continuing work over the summer on specific topics. The intent would be to have ideas and suggestions ready for the Council to consider when the Fall 2017 semester begins.
1. **Continue to edit the goals**-This sub-committee would be in charge of revising and editing the goals.
 2. **Policy and Procedures**: Lovett feels we need a little more guidance and more of a playbook to follow for the Director of General Education, the General Education Council, and faculty.
 3. **Development of ideas for General Education Experimentation**- Part of charge of the Council is to explore and experiment with the General Education program. Suggestions for consideration include new courses,

reducing the total number of credit hours required, assessment of the existing courses, academic program courses counting for General Education credit, etc. Is it possible to streamline the General Education Program? Are students spending too much time and money on General Education Courses? How can we better market the value of the General Education Program?

Markowitz emailed the Council a document that included the Kansas Board of Regents 45 Hour Articulation Agreement for General Education. Sleezer indicated that this could be an example/possible model for change. Are there advantages and disadvantages to this? One advantage would be a decrease in the number of substitution forms processed in the LAS Dean's office.

Brewer suggested that the sub-committee throw out the existing General Education Goals entirely and start over. Start from scratch. Brewer thought this would help provide a clearer picture of the expectations for our graduates. What is it that today's students need from General Education? Brewer felt that the Council has been revising the old goals to limited effect while the General Education Curriculum has not really changed significantly from when she attended ESU. She expressed a concern that we are trying to write the General Education Goals to match the courses and that is not the way it should be done. The goals should be written with the student in mind. What fits student's needs for their careers?

Hamilton suggested that maybe there should not be a list of disciplines underneath each goal. Some disciplines cross some boundaries for General Education categories. Brewer indicated that in her view General Education needs to be a different set of experiences for our students so that they can be excited and passionate about their courses while still meeting their general education needs.

Markowitz said it was a great idea but if the classes we offered were very different then the classes that transfer students have taken already might cause transfer headaches. Markowitz attended a registrar's meeting for Regents schools and she had asked if the other universities still use the 45 hour articulation form. KU and K

State have very broad general education programs and they really do not have a need for it any more. However, if a student specifically asks for it, they would work with that student. All other universities still use the form and honor it.

Lovett suggested to the Council that maybe we need to approach possible changes with the understanding that we might keep the existing General Education Program as a default for a period of time even as we experiment with other ideas. Keeping the existing program in place does several things (e.g. facilitates transfer credit, possibly limits disgruntlement by faculty, provides a familiar format for students, etc.) while we experiment with processes that provide General Education options.

Lovett really liked the idea of tossing the goals out and starting from scratch. He felt starting from scratch made a lot of sense given the difficulty we have had reworking the existing goals the past two years. "If you're going to have an experiment that's designed to do something better then let's start from scratch. However, the experiment will need goals, otherwise you won't know if it's doing what it's supposed to be doing." What are we trying to experiment with? Goals? Reducing hours? Assessment of existing classes? New Classes?

Shane suggested not to accept any more course changes to General Education Council until we can revamp the General Education Goals and decide what classes meet the goals. Lovett thought it was a good point for next year to limit to items the Council will consider to allow us to focus on getting other important business accomplished.

Stone spoke with the Council about how we could better sell the importance of General Education. He said he had looked at several schools but hadn't seen anything drastically different. But he feels if we package it the right way parents and students might be able to understand the purpose better. He suggested broad simple goals with specific learning objectives indicated for each goal.

Volunteers to work on the sub-committee were: #1 McKenzie and Rahman will work on editing the goals. #2 Lovett, Markowitz, Costello and Shane will help with the editing policy and procedure. #3 Experimentation Stone, Brewer and Hamilton. The

sub-committees will meet once before the next General Education Council meeting to be able to show the Council some of the progress the sub committees are doing.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned: 4:00pm

Recorder: km