

General Education Committee  
March 8, 2018 4:00 pm  
HSS 2018

Voting Members Present: Ali Khalil, Bob Bennett, David Harding, Gary Edwards, Hong Zhou, Karen Yanowitz, Lillie Fears Proxy Sarah Scott, Marc Williams, Paige Wimberley, Zahid Hossain, Rebecca Oliver  
Ex-Officio Members Present: Summer Deprow  
Members Absent: Matt Costello, Randy Kesselring, LTC Michael Fellure, Karen Wheeler, Bert Greenwalt

Convene the meeting. At 4:01 pm

1. Approval of February 8, 2018 minutes – Motioned to approve by Dr. David Harding; Seconded by Mr. Khalil; All approved.
2. Outstanding Business
  - a. General Education Awards Update: Harding, Yanowitz, Khalil – Postpone to next month
  - b. Multicultural/Diversity Committee Update –
    - i. Fears, Wimberley, Zhou, and Khalil – Presented by Mr. Ali Khalil. The committee met twice to talk about how to align the General Education outcomes to the ULO's. The committee all took different sections of the General Education courses and looked at the syllabi to determine whether or not they were meeting the University Goals. Dr. Zhou stated that the Math department collectively decided the math courses are not a universal language and thus do not meet the diversity and globalization outcome. They do feel that they can speak to the other ULO's. The committee decided to bring the discussion back to the general education committee and ask whether all courses in the general education should meet all of the outcomes. The collective answer from the GEC to committee was, No. The overall general education program should meet all 4 university outcomes as a whole, but individual courses do not have to meet every outcome. Also brought up was the question of what if we are graduating a lot of international students, does that then meet the diversity outcome? The goal of the ULO's is to look at the program content, not the students that are coming through the program. There was also a question of what counts as "touching" a ULO? How much content does a program have to have to be considered as touching a ULO? Mr. Khalil gave some background information on the method used in their evaluation and stated that Dr. Fears looked at the syllabi through a lens of key words. We decided to revisit this subject at the next meeting and talk with Dr. Fears about the key words that she used.
  - c. Interim report from Oral Communication –
    - i. The General Education Oral Communications interim report was submitted and reviewed. Ms. Sarah Scott, proxy for Dr. Lillie Fears, came to speak to the report and answer any questions the committee may have. Ms. Scott stated that in the original review there were several issues that needed to be dealt with, including different rubrics being used, data not being recording, and the continuity of the data that was recorded. The oral Communication department collectively created a very analytical rubric and decided to embed the rubric as a required part of the oral communications course. They are now receiving 100% of student data across all modalities and can see a much better picture of where they are in terms of assessment. They are holding assessment workshops in order to train the faculty and norming the rubric every year. They also hope to implement in the future an oral communications trainer to train graduate assistants to teach the Oral Communication Courses.

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- ii. The committee commended the oral communication department on a job well done. The rubric is clear and clearly communicated. This was an amazing transformation from the previous review. Ms. Rebecca Oliver made a motion to pass the report and this was seconded by Mr. Marc Williams; All Approved.
  - d. GEC Mission and Student-Learning Assessment Manual –
    - i. It was returned to the shared governance process on March 6, 2018. There should be a final resolution sometime after Spring Break.
  - e. GEC outcomes to ULO outcomes Alignment Project Update:
    - i. Communication – Submitted by Dr. Fears  
Mathematics – Submitted by Dr. Zhou  
Arts and Humanities – Submitted by Mr. Marc Williams  
Social Sciences – Under Review by Dr. Harding and Dr. Yanowitz  
Sciences – Submitted by Dr. Bob Bennett
  - f. HLC Update –
    - i. The committee felt that the overall visit went well. There strengths listed from the exit interview were mission, assessment, research, honors, and that we have definitely tied assessment back to courses. A few of the opportunities provided to us were to further investigate the ULO's and an exit survey, and strategic planning. The institution will receive the report back in a month and then we can change errors of fact. We are hopeful for an interim report on strategic planning. They did note in the exit meeting strategic review of enrollment mix, meaning diversity as well as aligning our expectations with the system office expectations and strategic plan. General Education was mentioned in that once a strategic plan is in place, we need to tie our assessment to that strategic plan. Dr. Zhou asked if we thought that co-curricular items were going to be added to the assessment agenda. A-State has already added this. The HLC visit is done.
3. New Business
- a. If you would like to serve as the interim chair of the General Education Committee for the summer, please email Dr. Bob Bennett.
  - b. Next meeting - April 19, 2018 at 4:00 pm
  - c. Mr. Khalil - What about a new committee to put forward interdisciplinary courses? We could have the faculty that are doing Hamilton come in to talk about the process they have used. The committee decided to revisit this in the fall.

Announcements:

Learn@State is March 14 from 2-5 in the Fowler Center Grand Hall. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Krisiti Costello and Professor Sarah Scott and will focus on the General Education outcome for communication.

Fall 2018 is the year the Social Sciences will submit formal reports to the GEC. Please let the Assessment Office know if your programs need assistance with data compilation by May 15.

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**2017-2018 Subcommittee leaders:**

1. Marc Williams – David Harding, Lillie Fears, Gary Edwards
2. Rebecca Oliver – Paige Wimberley, Karen Yanowitz, Zahid Hossain
3. Ali Khalil - Randy Kesselring, Matt Costello, Kevin Humphrey, Hong Zhou