Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee  
April 18, 2016  
SF 329  
4:00 pm – 5:50 pm

Present: Eric Fricke, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Yi Karnes, Sarah Nielsen, Maureen  
Scharberg, Mitchell Watnik.  
Absent: Lawrence Bliss, Rita Liberti, Aline Soules, Nancy Thompson.  
Guests: Eileen Barrett, Linda Beebe, Gr Keer, Glen Perry, Sophie Rollins.

The Chair (Glass) called the meeting to order at 4:02.

1. Approval of the agenda.  (M Calvo/S Nielsen/P). The Chair said she has to  
leave at 5:30.

2. Approval of the minutes of April 11.  (M Calvo/S Hallab/P). A typo was  
corrected.

3. Reports
   a. Chair. Glass noted that the American Institutions Requirement passed  
CIC. Also, CIC passed the Writing Skills Subcommittee’s  
recommendation that second comp be a lower division course. Glass  
felt that this might be controversial.
   b. GE Director. Not present.
   c. Semester Conversion. The deadline for bachelor’s programs is May  
13.

4. New Business
   a. Continued discussion of cluster format under semesters
      i. Three semester cluster proposal. Glass asked whether there  
should be a listening session. There were comments indicating  
that the written comments may have been more valuable.  
Dean Rountree (CLASS) was quoted as having said sophomore  
clusters would be costly. Glass and Scharberg were at a  
meeting about using “engagement” for retention. Glass  
advocated calling them a “first year experience”. Scharberg  
said that enrollment is part of the key and cited Beebe’s  
success with block enrollment for freshmen. There was a  
question about the purview of GE to make such a  
recommendation. Watnik said that CIC was the committee that  
recommend dissolution of sophomore clusters and felt that it  
was in the purview. Glass suggested changing the phrase for  
sophomore course from “linked discipline” to “sophomore  
priority”. There was a question about whether GS courses had  
to be GS or could be offered by other departments in support of
the cluster. There was a question about the Syracuse study that suggests using the GS model, but nobody had copies of the study. There were questions about who would hire (and pay) the seminar instructor for a GS supplanting course. Bliss noted that encouraging GS instructors to develop relationships with the other cluster instructors. It was noted that one college wanted more information literacy (perhaps at the expense of GS). Keer was asked about the class size and the extent of online offerings. She noted that class size was 30-35 and that courses were either online or hybrid. Beebe clarified that in the Fall, classes tend to be more on-ground and by Spring are more online. There were criticisms that this would diminish the feeling of community within the freshman experience. Glass suggested GE recommend two linked discipline course with linked GS courses. Then, there would be block registration for sophomore-priority courses. It was asked whether it could be mandated that there be a high impact teaching practice for the sophomore course. Glass noted that that would require applications and, while she favors the high impact practice, does not want that. Nielsen suggested pairing the critical thinking, information literacy, and second comp courses. Scharberg advocated for lower division GE or major course. She also advocated for a different priority enrollment where lower division students would get priority for lower division courses before upperclassmen. Watnik said that might hurt students who needed math remediation and then chose to take calculus as upper division students. Glass said that math offers enough sections so that everyone can take calculus. Scharberg referred to allowing exceptions via permission numbers. There was a prolonged discussion about PeopleSoft capabilities. In the end, there was some consensus about having a block enrollment-like sophomore schedule, with the notice that the term “sophomore” would have to be clarified because many students wouldn’t have the 30 baccalaureate units to meet the Catalog definition.

5. Adjournment. (M Calvo/S Liberti/P). The meeting was adjourned at 5:30. The subcommittee will meet next week at 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary