Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee  
May 9, 2016  
SF 329  
2:00 pm - 3:50 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Eric Fricke, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Yi Karnes, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Maureen Scharberg, Aline Soules, Nancy Thompson, Mitchell Watnik.  
Absent: none.  
Guests: Eileen Barrett, Glen Perry.

The Chair (Glass) called the meeting to order at 2:05.

1. Approval of the agenda. (M Soules/S Thompson/P). Due to technical issues, the minutes will not be approved today.

2. Approval of the minutes of April 25. (M Nielsen/S Calvo/P). There were abstentions.

3. Reports  
   a. Chair. Overlays were shown to the Senate but not approved due to debate over double-counting. Thompson asked about details needed for proposals for semester GE courses. There was conversation about whether the course outcomes should align with the GE outcomes. Concerns were expressed about courses that were created previously, but now want to apply for GE credit. The issue with the GE applications (“2b form”) is that the course learning outcomes don’t appear. Watnik asked whether members were willing to return for next year. Barrett mentioned that members will receive 4 WTU for Fall.
   b. GE Director. Watnik asked about a comment made by Christopher Moreman (Philosophy) to allow for half-semester courses in the freshman clusters. This might allow for team teaching. Thompson noted that the cluster proposal doesn’t mandate structure, though it would have to be clear that the GE areas would be covered. Glass said that the proposals should allow for 6 units in two GE areas. Thompson said that there could be flexibility, but there were concerns about 4 unit cluster courses. Calvo said that the viewing diversity cluster intends to have students in groups of 30 choose 2 of the 3 courses in the cluster (and people were agreeable to that). The consensus was that there would be a “strong preference” for 6 unit year-long experience will be expressed.
   c. Semester Conversion. The deadline for undergraduate programs to submit is Friday. Consultants are on campus working to help with the degree audit. The theme next year will be “advise, advise, advise” (Scharberg added “graduate, graduate, graduate”). The largest majors are already online for degree audit, with over 23% of the majors.
Quarter audits will be done first within the programs, though some programs will be having semesters done while other (smaller) programs will still be having quarter programs.

4. New Business
   a. Approval form and process for Overlays. The form will be analogous to the GE form. Glass had sent an email to members and got no negative feedback. The suggestion was that the 2A form should be used, but with an extra attachment for the overlay. There was consensus to invite Sarah Aubert to the next meeting. There was a desire to have information as to whether there were concurrent applications for GE and/or other graduation requirements.
   b. Double counting overlays, a response. There were motions at the Senate to allow for double-counting overlays. The current amendment is allow a course to be certified for multiple overlays, but that students would only get credit for one. Some members felt that it would be okay. Others disagreed that the focus would be lost. There were concerns expressed about assessment. The sense was that the rationale for doing this was to get more students. It was pointed out that, if multiple overlays were allowed, there would need to be a “quantification of coverage”. “These are three different overlays. The integrity of the overlays as unique perspectives is at stake.”
   c. Double counting Writing II. The Writing Skills Subcommittee proposed that Writing II must be lower division. There is a question about whether Writing II could be double-counted as A3, B1-B4, C1-C3, or D1-D3. (M Bliss/S Watnik/P) to allow double-counting as specified above.
   d. Revisiting Sophomore Year Experience. Glass said that one of the CIC concerns about the sophomore year proposal was that the focus should be on the priority enrollment. One of the motivations was to reward students for seeking advising towards the end of the freshman year, which might alleviate the “sophomore slump”. This discussion will continue next week.

5. Adjournment. (M Watnik/S Bliss/P). The meeting was adjourned at 3:54. The subcommittee will meet next week at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary