GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

November 19, 2019
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room – OM 136

Present:
- Lee Rickords, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (Chair)
- Christopher Scheer, Caine College of the Arts
- Daniel Holland, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
- Shelley Lindauer, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
- Thom Fronk, College of Engineering
- Harrison Kleiner, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Claudia Radel, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
- Greg Podgorski, College of Science
- Matt Sanders, Connections
- Dory Rosenberg, University Libraries
- Steve Nelson, USU Eastern
- Sami Ahmed, USUSA President
- Lawrence Culver, American Institutions
- Charlie Huenemann, Humanities
- Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences
- Ryan Bosworth, Social Sciences
- Robyn Peterson, Registrar’s Office
- John Mortensen, Academic and Instructional Services
- Kristine Miller, University Honors Program
- Amber Summers-Graham, Secretary

Excused:
- David Brown, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive
- Mykel Beorchia, University Advising
- Robert Mueller, Statewide Campuses/Communications Intensive
- David Wall, Creative Arts

Call to Order – Lee Rickords

Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2019
Minutes approved as distributed.

Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals

HIST 3840 (DHA) APPROVED ............................................. Charlie Huenemann

Motion to approve DHA designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Shelley Lindauer. Designation approved.
HIST 4630 (DHA) APPROVED ................................................................. Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve DHA designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Shelley
Lindauer. Designation approved.

PHIL 3500 (DHA) APPROVED ................................................................. Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve DHA designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Shelley
Lindauer. Designation approved.

BIOL 3500 (DSC) APPROVED ................................................................. Ryan Dupont
Motion to approve DSC designation made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Matt Sanders.
Designation approved.

Business

Reviewing and Approving General Education Designation Proposals

A comment came up regarding a misalignment between the expectations of the different
designation subcommittees and whether or not the General Education subcommittee needs
to ensure that all submitted proposals are addressing all points on a designation rubric before
approval can be made. Some designation subcommittees are rejecting proposals that do not
address all the criteria in the proposals and others are working from the syllabus and having off-
line conversations with the faculty that might not be reflected in Curriculog. So, when the Gen
Ed subcommittee as a whole is reviewing the proposals before a meeting, they may not be
getting all of the information that the designation subcommittees had when making their
decisions. Is the General Education subcommittee trusting the designation subcommittees
as the subject matter experts in the field to perform the evaluations which will be rubber
stamped by the General Education subcommittee? Or, does the committee require the faculty
member, for the sake of posterity, to make a clear argument in curriculum in the proposal so
that the records clearly show why the course merits a designation.

For the sake of time, it was decided that this discussion would be tabled until the next meeting.
The Committee was asked to think about this issue and then bring ideas back for discussion
and a vote at the next meeting.

“What is an Educated Person?” Conference Update – Lee Rickords

Lee Rickords reported that there were some very good things covered at this year’s “What is an
Educated Person?” conference. Drew Koch from the Gardner Institute presented some very
interesting information about the increase of retention rates when courses were redesigned
every few years or so. Part of his argument was an equity argument. If a course was designed,
say, in 1995 and has roughly the same content and is taught in roughly the same way now as it
was in 1995, that ignores the fact that that student body has changed. The student body is
much more diverse. There are many more first gen students, especially at public regionals like
Utah State University. His argument was, if institutions are not constantly revising at least their
pedagogical practices or things like this in their classroom, they are teaching to a generation
ago and are not effectively reaching students, particularly the most at-risk students.

Another interesting topic covered was that in Dr. Koch’s research, 42.87 percent of DF/WI
students in the institutions he studied were still in good standing with the University, but were
not retained. They were still passing, but because they had Ds or withdrawals, the students just did not come back. Looking at the Civitas data for Utah State University, the DF/WI students are in good standing, and while they might persist to the next semester, they are probably not being retained to the next year. So, Civitas isn't quite getting granular enough with the students in good standing to really identify students who are at risk.

**Sustainability as part of General Education – Ryan Dupont**

Ryan Dupont mentioned that the Academic Working Group of the Greenhouse Gas Initiative may be making a recommendation to incorporate sustainability into General Education. He wanted to let the committee know that he has the information that the committee put together in 2008 when this subject was initially broached and he can make it available to the committee when needed.

**Adjourn - 9:14 AM**