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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

September 15, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: Lee Rickords, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (Chair)
Christopher Scheer, Caine College of the Arts
Greg Podgorski, College of Science
Matt Sanders, Connections
Dory Rosenberg, University Libraries
Robert Mueller, Statewide Campuses/Communications Intensive
Charlie Huenemann, Humanities
Ryan Bosworth, Social Sciences
Robyn Peterson, Registrar’s Office
Mykel Beorchia, University Advising
Kristine Miller, University Honors Program
Shelley Lindauer, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
John Mortensen, Academic and Instructional Services
Thom Fronk, College of Engineering
Steve Nelson, USU Eastern
Daniel Holland, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
David Wall, Creative Arts
Harrison Kleiner, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Michelle Smith, Secretary

Excused: Paul Barr, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
Lawrence Culver, American Institutions
Sami Ahmed, USUSA President
Claudia Radel, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences
David Brown, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive

Call to Order – Lee Rickords

Approval of Minutes – [April 21, 2020](#)

Motion to approve the April 21, 2020 minutes made by Bob Mueller. Seconded by Thomas Fronk. Minutes approved as distributed.

Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals

<https://usu.curriculog.com/>

ARTH 3250 (CI) **APPROVED**.....Robert Mueller

Motion to approve made by Bob Mueller. Seconded by David Wall.

ARTH 3615 (CI) **APPROVED**..... Robert Mueller
Motion to approve made by Bob Mueller. Seconded by David Wall.
Course title in Curriculog was misspelled (Needs to be corrected.)

ARTH 3250 (DHA - Arts) **APPROVED**..... Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Greg Podgorski.

ARTH 3615 (DHA - Humanities) **APPROVED**..... Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Greg Podgorski.

HIST 3350 (DHA - Humanities) **APPROVED**..... Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Greg Podgorski.

HIST 4660 (DHA - Humanities) **APPROVED**..... Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Greg Podgorski.

HIST 3660 (DHA - Humanities) **APPROVED**..... Charlie Huenemann
Motion to approve made by Charlie Huenemann. Seconded by Greg Podgorski.

SOC 3340 (DSS) **APPROVED APPROVED**..... Ryan Bosworth
Motion to approve made by Ryan Bosworth. Seconded by Matt Sanders.

Business

Update on the Northwest Accreditation Response Harrison Kleiner

While the expectation was that USU would be on a probationary status, we actually received a clean bill of health. This was the first time this has ever occurred. Gen Ed assessment is ongoing, and they expect that USU will continue with this process. Michael Torrens and Harrison will be writing a report in preparation for the peer site visit in January. This will just need to be an update on USU's process, rather than a response to the accreditation.

Update from USHE Gen Ed Task Force..... Harrison Kleiner

There is now a USHE Board Transfer Council on USHE. They are leaning in on facilitating ease of transfer throughout the USHE system. USHE uses a common course number across its system for higher education. There is also a push to make sure 3000 level courses are not in the first 2 years of a major's plan of study to ease transfer issues from 2 years schools in the USHE system.

There will also be a push to standardize the number of credits required in General Education. USU is on the low end of the required GE credits as mandated in R470. There are requirements for graduation unique to some Utah universities. These unique requirements cause transfer headaches to students. Gen Ed Subcommittee and USU will need to be prepared for mandates to come from USHE regarding Gen Ed requirements and other standards to be added to university requirements.

This should not affect our depth requirements. It may affect other designations, however. We don't know the number of Gen Ed credits that will be required by USHE, but it may be around

the range of 33-36. These credits can be taken and completed in the first two years of the curriculum.

John Mortensen added that Gen Ed and University Studies at USU used to be interchangeable. It used to be that students couldn't transfer without completing both. USU then split out Gen Ed and University Studies. USU used to require a computer literacy component to make sure students could get to the required 30 credits of university studies. Any additional required Gen Ed courses may add to these university studies requirements. Exploratory advising was a band-aid until there was a better solution. However, it has remained a part of USU's options for a long time.

Harrison expressed that it was beneficial to have university studies separate from Gen Ed. Having standardized requirements across the system will be good for students. It is important to keep Gen Ed as part of the quality education for students. Changes to requirements will happen sooner than later, possibly this year. No timeline was provided by USHE.

John stated that at U of U, they have a requirement that in Gen Ed, students have to take three courses in one area such as Arts and Humanities, and the university has a list of what can fulfill that requirement. They also have a credit requirement for Life and Physical Sciences with a list of courses to fulfill that requirement, some of which are 2000 and 3000 level courses.

Mykel Beorchia said that as she works with exploratory students, she finds that students have different issues, so should we ask different types of questions, such as how intentional are we about helping students choose a major? Transferring (to other universities) is not always what gets in the way of student success. Choosing a major is a real problem for students. It may be less about getting numbers (of credits) lined up but more about student development, such as identifying who they are and having experiences that help them connect to a major.

Harrison stated that transfers can slow students down but it doesn't speak to the larger problem of students being intentional about choosing a major. Easing transfer burdens is still the focus of this USHE Transfer Committee.

John pointed out that transfer students have an advantage. Students who get a 4.0 as sophomores don't get a scholarship at USU, but if they transfer to USU, they can get a guaranteed scholarship. Students who transfer get rewarded for transferring in, but students who stay do not. There is a disconnect in that reward system.

Harrison stated that the Gen Ed Task Force has helped Regents understand the value of General Education.

A question arose about a project started previous to Covid on using artifacts and evidence to help evaluations. Harrison explained that there was initially a drive to get artifacts from quizzes and exams to help evaluations, but that became a large technical difficulty to pull out those artifacts from courses. Last year was a learning year, but software and technological providers promised that this could happen. Harrison stated that he doesn't believe they will make it happen. There was some effort to pull artifacts by some area committees, but the focus of the project became more about refining the process than finding the artifacts to generate assessments. He'd like to shift the timeline to January rather than May to accomplish this so that the area committees won't lose sight of the goal.

Covid interrupted the process to pull out examples from syllabi and proposals to generate outcomes for what designations accomplish. Harrison is working with CI committees in each college to develop these items.

Adjourn 9:04 p.m.