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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Date

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
 - *Toni Gibbons, Registrar's Office
 - *Mykel Beorchia, University Advising
 - *Kristine Miller, University Honors Program
 - *Shelley Lindauer, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
 - *Thom Fronk, College of Engineering
 - *Steve Nelson, USU Eastern
 - *Daniel Holland, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
 - *David Wall, Creative Arts
 - *Daniel Coster, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive
 - *Harrison Kleiner, College of Humanities and Social Science
 - *Claudia Radel, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
 - *Paul Barr, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
 - Michelle Smith, Secretary

Excused:

- Sami Ahmed, USUSA President
- Ryan Dupont, Life and Physical Sciences
- John Mortensen, Academic and Instructional Services

Call to Order – Lee Rickords

Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2020

Kristine Miller pointed out that David Brown did not motion to approve GEO 5570. Michelle will watch the recording and correct the minutes. Charlie also asked that the minutes be amended regarding his comments on PSC 2040 to remove language suggesting he hadn't reviewed the proposal. Michelle will correct the minutes.

Motion to approve the amended minutes made by Greg Podgorski

Seconded by Bob Mueller

Amended minutes approved unanimously

Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals <https://usu.curriculog.com/>

LANG 3570 (DHA)..... Charlie Huenemann
Recomended by Charlie Huenemann
Secoded by Greg Podgorski
Approved unanimously

SOC 4010 (DSS)Ryan Bosworth
Recomended by Ryan Bosworth
Secoded by Kristine Miller
Approved unanimously

Business

Harrison stated that he is starting to gather artifacts and assessment data on Gen Ed rubrics for the Fall semester. Last year's tools to gather data didn't work very well on the academic year timeline. Gathering some artifacts on committees was also hampered due to Covid. Harrison suggested to committees that they gather their data on a calendar year basis and not an academic year basis. He will contact committee chairs in February to score their 15-20 artifacts.

Bob asked what the assessment artifacts were referring to – for example, are they syllabi? Harrison clarified that there are early and late assignments identified by faculty of a course that are part of the rubric requirements and the committees should look at student submissions as samples to compare how the assignments are fulfilled for Gen Ed outcomes. There were problems last year with science course evaluations because the program that was used to pull and evaluate student exam questions/answers couldn't pull data for exams so there were few student submissions to sample. Last year there were also problems with seeing the rubric assignment prompts along with student submissions. Canvas is working on fixing how that information can be made available.

Kristine asked who is telling faculty this is happening with their assignments. For example, she has not told any honors courses faculty about assessing their assignments and submissions. Harrison clarified only depth level courses are being evaluated. He informs faculty via email with instructions on how to submit this information to the committee.

Harrison also stated he and Beth met over the break to work on composition rubrics. He will reach out to the working group along with concerned stakeholders and is confident he and Beth will be able to submit the revised rubrics to the committee a week before the February meeting.

Greg asked if Harrison had heard more about the timeline for revised Gen Ed minimum requirements and details from USHE. Harrison said no, but they will completely revise R470. It is in that USHE document where credit amounts and requirements will be listed. There is a working group of 4-5 people on the USHE Gen Ed task force, including himself, tackling that revision. His sense is that in the last meeting, after listening to Julie Hartley, the assistant commissioner, the transfer council/committee felt that a rushed document would do more harm than good. However, he thinks it will probably happen by the end of this semester.

Lee asked Paul about the transfer committee, since he attended the last meeting. Paul said the transfer committee is starting a study to look at the impact of transfers. It appears there is a pause to the final decisions being made on changes that would impact transfer students.

Harrison stated that there is probably some more time before there will be changes or a decision from USHE about Gen Ed credit requirements.

Greg stated he is concerned because the College of Science would be highly impacted by credit requirement changes to 2000, 3000, and 4000 level courses. Harrison stated he thinks other members of the USHE Gen Ed task force are now realizing the complications and impacts on changes or increases to Gen Ed requirements. Provost Galey and President Cockett will also advocate for USU and voice concerns over increases for credit requirements.

Lee also stated that as he understands, some of the two-year institutions have high requirements and are concerned about losing faculty and students if requirements are lowered. USU is on the other end pushing to keep Gen Ed requirements lower. Everyone will have to wait and see how the requirements are resolved.

Adjourned at 8:48 a.m.