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General Education Subcommittee Minutes October 3, 2024

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October 3, 2024
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Matt Sanders, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Chair)
Jim Bay, Life and Physical Sciences
David Wall, Creative Arts
Keri Holt, Humanities
Robert Mueller, Statewide Campuses
Christopher Scheer, Caine College of the Arts
Scott Findley, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Thomas Fronk, College of Engineering
Brynja Kohler, College of Science
Mateja Savoie Roskos, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Peter Howe, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Jared Colton, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Sylvia Read, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Kristine Miller, University Honors Program
Harrison Kleiner, Associate Vice Provost, Connections
Toni Gibbons, Registrar's Office
Shelly Kotynek, University Advising
Michele Hillard, Secretary
Ryan Bosworth, American Institutions Chair
David Brown, Quantitative Literacy/Intensive
Beth Buyserie, Communications Literacy/Intensive
Scott Bates, Social Sciences

Excused: Steve Nelson, USU Eastern
Dory Rosenburg, University Libraries
Matthew Richey, USUSA President
John Mortensen, Office of the Executive Vice President

Guest: Zak Konakis

Call to Order – Matt Sanders

Approval of Minutes – [September 5, 2024](#)
Minutes approved as distributed.

Course Approvals/Removals/Syllabi Approvals
Motion to approve the BHU designation made by Kris Miller. Seconded by Mateja Savoie Roskos. Designation approved.



New Business

USHE 402 Policy Draft – Harrison Kleiner

Objective:

- Enhance the stack ability of degrees, particularly the BAS and BAP.
- Align curriculum with industry needs while ensuring compliance with accreditation standards.

Key Features of the New Policy:

- The BAS will require full completion of the general education program.
- The BAP will focus on a streamlined approach, emphasizing essential competencies and soft skills desired by employers.

Industry Insights:

- Research indicates that employers across various industries value soft skills and foundational general education courses.
- The proposed policy aims to incorporate these insights into the curriculum, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for the workforce.

General Education Requirements:

- A minimum of 9 general education credits will be mandated.
- This requirement goes beyond what is set by the USHE, aiming for a more robust educational foundation.

Formation of a Committee:

- A dedicated committee will be established to:
 - Analyze industry requirements in detail.
 - Develop a proposal that aligns with the expectations of the General Education Subcommittee.
- The committee will consist of Harrison Kleiner, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education, Matt Sanders, Chair of the General Education Subcommittee, relevant department head and program proposer. This committee will then send a recommendation for approval to the General Education Subcommittee

Next Steps:

- Review the list of potential courses and requirements for each degree type.
- Ensure that any changes comply with accreditation standards.
- Prepare to present findings and proposals at the next meeting for action.

Feedback Loop:

- Establish a process for ongoing feedback, particularly with Harrison Kleiner and Zak Konakis, to refine proposals before presentation.

Action Items for Next Meeting

Approval of Committee Formation:

- Discuss and approve the creation of the committee tasked with evaluating industry needs and general education requirements.

Review of Degree Requirements:

- Subcommittee chairs to assess the current list of courses for alignment with BAS and BAP degrees.



Proposal Presentation:

- Prepare an initial proposal to be shared with the General Education Subcommittee for discussion.

Accreditation Compliance Check:

- Ensure that all proposed changes meet accreditation requirements, possibly inviting an accreditation expert to weigh in.

[Final R470 Designation Outcomes](#) – Harrison Kleiner

Stay Updated on USHE Legal Review:

- Acknowledge that the current proposals are subject to potential changes from USHE legal, so avoid finalizing any outcomes until feedback is received.

Review of Learning Outcomes:

- Note that some institutions have adopted learning outcomes from R470 verbatim, while USU has traditionally approached this differently.
- Identify the pros and cons of adopting these outcomes word for word versus modifying them to reflect USU's unique identity.

Consultation with Colleges and Departments:

- Engage with faculty and departments to gather input on how they would like to approach the learning outcomes.
- Encourage discussion on potential modifications or additions to ensure that outcomes resonate with USU's values.

Developing a Customized Approach:

- Discuss the possibility of wordsmithing the existing outcomes to better align with USU's educational philosophy while still complying with USHE requirements.
- Consider adding specific outcomes that represent USU's mission and strengths.

Documentation and Guidance:

- Recognize the importance of guidance documents in clarifying expectations for faculty and stakeholders.
- Wait for Harrison Kleiner to distribute a clean document outlining the proposed learning outcomes.

Preparation for November Meeting:

- Set a timeline for gathering feedback from colleges and departments before the November meeting.
- Ensure that subcommittee chairs compile this feedback and present it in a cohesive manner at the meeting.

Clarification of Approval Process:

- Reiterate that updates or changes to the learning outcomes do not require approval from USHE but must be accepted by the General Education (Gen Ed) and Educational Policies Committee (EPC).

Next Steps for Subcommittee Chairs

- Collect and synthesize feedback from respective departments.



- Prepare to discuss how the proposed learning outcomes can reflect both compliance with USHE and USU's unique identity.
- Be ready to present this information in the November meeting for further discussion and potential approval by Gen Ed and EPC.

Additional Items

N/A

Adjourn: 9:30 am