University General Education Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2017

**In Attendance:** Marilyn Mindingall, Colleen P. Stapleton, Cynthia D. Rubenstein, Douglas Hill, Dr. Steven McClung, Grace G. Lewis, Kelly J. McMichael, Laura W. Lackey, Mary Kot, Michael Weber, Nannette Turner, Susan Codone, Suzie L. Madden, Wesley N. Barker, and Sharon Augustine

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Colleen Stapleton made a motion to approve minutes—Grace Lewis asked that the minutes be amended to include her name. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Mary Kot and seconded by Doug Hill and passed unanimously.

**B) Curriculum**

**TSM Proposal**

Doug Hill noted that Susan Malone and Marilyn Mindingall recently noted that TSM general education needed to be aligned with university policies and SACs requirements. In order to so, he presented the following proposal to move their MUS120R (a WRT 120 course) from the Additional Requirements section to the Communications: Written and Oral section. They also are clarifying that students who exempt a foreign language will either need to take the course at the 111 level or enroll in an additional 3-hour non-MUS course in the Humanities and Fine Arts Category in order to have a enough general education credits. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Mary Kot and seconded by Laura Lackey.

Discussion on the motion: Marilyn Mindingall noted that TSM would double check the numbers of their general education ranges for each section and that Doug Hill should email those ranges to her and Susan Malone. The motion passed unanimously.

**CLA Proposal**

Mary Kot presented two CLA proposals.

1. The first proposal involved deleting the WRT courses from the general education choices. CLA has already approved their removal. At the last UGEC meeting this change was discussed in more depth. Steven McClung made a motion to approve the proposal and Laura Lackey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. The second proposal involved adding AFR 230 “Religion and the American Black Experience” into the Religious Heritage General Education Block. Nanette Turner made a motion to approve and Wesley Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Penfield Proposal**

Wesley Barker presented the proposal for Penfield to a catalogue course section World Humanities. He also proposed adding two courses to different section of their general education: HUMA 115 “Interpreting Artifacts Across Cultures and around the World” to the Humanities/Fine Arts section of their general education and HUMA 215 “Interpreting Texts, Practices, and Artifacts across Cultures and around the World” to the Interpretation and Citizenship section of Penfield’s general education and to the Humanities Fine/Arts requirements for the Mercer University general education requirements. Mary Kot made a motion to approve and Laura Lackey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**C) Assessment**

1.) **Writing Assessment and Closing the Loop: Penfield Report** Colleen updated on faculty development workshops to help faculty design writing assignments because of the AAC&U rubric results. Workshops are scheduled in the Spring to examine capstone courses to insure both integration of cross-cultural and integration of gen ed categories into the course and at the course assignment level. Colleen and Kelly McMichael will work to get Penfield access to Compliance Assist that CLA has for written communication.

2.) **Scientific Reasoning Rubrics: Plan for Next Year**

Colleen Stapleton, Marilyn Mindingall, Mary Kot and Ed Weintraut confirmed that we are only focusing on one area per year, so that over 10 years the committee would cover all areas.

Ed Weintraut needs to meet to see how our assessments are consistent across colleges for mathematical/quantitative reasoning and for scientific reasoning. Colleen asked who wanted to have input. Marilyn suggested that having a small group meet to decide and then bring back recommendations to the group would be ideal, then if anyone had issues, they could have input. Ed asked that those on the Doodle for that meeting please weigh in so that a time could be scheduled. It was also noted that some of the work could be completed over email. CLA and Penfield will bring back the full UGEC as a recommendation to normalize mathematical reasoning and scientific reasoning, the area in which we are closing the loop and then will discuss opening the loop for scientific reasoning.

**D) General Education Catalogue**

Marilyn Mindingall will distribute a catalogue copy in its first draft form to everyone this week. Make sure you have deleted courses in Gen Ed that are not offered and add those that have been added to your college’s catalogue copy (Example History 165 was replaced by History 105).

Colleen Stapleton asked if the statement about the religion requirement being waived if a student transfers in 30 hours or more of general education would be added to the catalogue. Marilyn Mindingall and Mary Kot noted that it is a policy and would not be in the catalogue.

**E) New Business**

Ed has a list of all Gen Ed changes for this academic year that he offered to share with the group. Upon hearing this, Marilyn Mindingall shared that she also had a sheet that aggregated the Undergraduate and Graduate Council proposals for the year. Steve McClung wasted no time in suggesting that Ed and Marilyn get their “sheets” together to show all the changes from this committee, Graduate Council, and Undergraduate Council. At this point, the committee all enjoyed a brief moment of levity.

**F) Scheduling 2017-18 Meetings**

Marilyn Mindingall noted that Graduate Council and Undergraduate Council will meet early next year in September and then monthly.