Mercer University

University General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 6, 2022 (Zoom)

Committee Members present: Achim Kopp, Tammy Crutchfield, Jeremy Bennett, Colleen Stapleton, Nannette Turner, Stephen Hill, Suzie Madden, Abby Dowling, Maura Schlairet, Tabatha Anderson, Nathan Myrick, Wesley Barker, Sharon Augustine, Kelly Reffitt, Kelly McMichael

Meeting called to order by Achim Kopp at 2:00 PM

1. Recorders of meeting minutes:
   1. Oct. 6 2022: Jeremy Bennett
   2. Feb.16 , 2023: Maura Schlairet
   3. March 23, 2023: Nathan Myrick
2. Approval of minutes from April 24, 2022 meeting (posted on Canvas)

Approved unanimously

1. Point of Information:
   1. Introduction of committee members.
   2. Discussion of the purpose of the committee.
   3. Requirement of 3 years commitment.
   4. Canvas is where most working documents of the committee are kept.
2. Official assessment documents kept on Compliance Assist, not on Canvas.
3. Annual assessment schedule and update on status of the unit reports (Colleen Stapleton and Achim Kopp). Schedule is kept in Canvas site. This year 22-23 we are completing
   1. Communicating effectively in writing follow up evaluation, which completes the 4-yr assessment cycle that we conduct for each competency.
   2. 2nd collection of reasoning quantitatively
   3. Scientific reasoning (analyzing observed phenomena through the use of scientific reasoning) first evaluation and faculty development
   4. Critical thinking from diverse perspectives first collection. May be paused because of agenda item #5 below.
4. Continued discussion of the assessment and potential modification of the competency “Critical Thinking from Diverse Perspectives”.
   1. Committee agreed that the language is circular—using critical thinking to demonstrate critical thinking—and the competency needs to be reviewed. Before student learning outcomes and associated rubric can be developed.
   2. Discussion on removing the competency “critical thinking from diverse perspectives” and replacing it with 2 others related to:
      1. Developing global perspective
      2. Humanities/interpretating worlds of meaning
   3. If new competencies are adopted, then existing courses in the University general education curriculum would remain but would be reassigned to the new competencies.
   4. Committee agreed to suggestion from W. Barker to create task force of CoPA and CLAS faculty to develop language for two new competencies and bring back to UGEC for review. Barker and Dowling agreed to create task force and ask their respective college general education committees to discuss implications of adding two new University general education competencies.
   5. Other committee members will send ideas on potential new competencies from their units to UGEC co-chairs.
   6. Stapleton will ask Danielle Buehrer if there may be any problem changing a competency as we near SACSCOC accreditation deadline.
   7. Kelly Reffitt agreed to discuss with Provost Davis to gain tentative approval to change competency and update UGEC co-chairs on his answer.
   8. Draft language on two new competencies to be presented to UGEC by Barker and Dowling in UGEC February 2, 2023 meeting.
5. Other business
   1. Kelly McMichael’s last meeting with UGEC.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Submitted by Jeremy Bennett.