Mercer University

University General Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday 03/30/23 (Zoom)

Committee Members present: Achim Kopp, Colleen Stapleton, Stephen Hill, Suzie Madden, Abby Dowling, Maura Schlairet, Tabatha Anderson, Nathan Myrick, Wesley Barker, Sharon Augustine, Kelly Reffitt, Danielle Buehrer, Loleta Sartin, Candace Barnett

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

1. Approval of minutes from February 2, 2023 meeting (posted on Canvas)
   1. Motion to approve minutes by Augustine, Seconded by Dowling. All approved. Minutes passed.
2. Curriculum proposals (posted on Canvas):
   1. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Addition of REL 215, 220, 225 (Abby Dowling)
      1. Want to add 3 religion courses: REL 215 Islam, REL 220 Hinduism, REL 225 Buddhism
      2. Stapleton asked What competency do these cover?
         1. Barker recommended critical thinking from diverse perspectives or global engagement
         2. The application form lists critical thinking from diverse perspectives competency.
      3. Motion by Barker, Second by Hill, all approved. Motion passed
   2. College of Professional Advancement: Changes to BIOL, ENVS, SCIE (Wesley Barker)
      1. Want to add 3 courses: BIOL 245 245L (Human A & P) ENVS 220
      2. Want to remove two older sciences: SCIE 220, SCIE 250
      3. These 3 new courses will match up with the scientific reasoning competency
      4. Motion to accept by Hill, Second by Sartin, all approved. Motion passed
3. Points of Information from various units:
   1. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Abby Dowling)
      1. Diverse perspectives requirement. Students will have to take a course related to DEI. Falls under the DEI committee.
      2. New headers for some courses, just designations (prefix) changes.
      3. Foreign languages and literature – credit by exam results in credit now.
   2. College of Professional Advancement (Wesley Barker)
      1. SCIE 100 pre-req will be removed from most courses.
      2. One title change in a course
   3. Townsend School of Music (Nathan Myrick)
      1. MUS 198 is now Mercer Univ Band
      2. MUS 180 is now being broken into instrument specific sections E through I
      3. MUS majors cannot use MUS courses as a fine arts requirement.
      4. Why does Latin not count as a foreign language requirement in the MUS School? Needs to be changed in their catalog section.
4. Revision of General Education statement (“Academic Information”) (posted on Canvas; Colleen Stapleton & Achim Kopp)
   1. Edits made by Buehrer, Kopp, and Stapleton to the statement for clarity.
   2. Motion to accept the revised statement: Augustine, seconded by Myrick. All Approved. Motion passed.
5. Replacement of the competency “Critical Thinking from Diverse Perspectives” with “Global Engagement” and “Interpretive Reasoning” (Wesley Barker & Abby Dowling)
   1. Dowling shared the proposed competency additions and SLOs for Interpretive Reasoning and Global Engagement.
   2. Motion to accept two new competencies (Interpretive Reasoning and Global Engagement) by Hill, Second by Stapleton. All approved. Motion passed.
6. Suggestion to revise the language of the other four competencies for clarity to:
   * 1. Written communication
     2. Oral communication
     3. Quantitative Reasoning
     4. Scientific Reasoning
   1. Motion to accept by Hill Second by Dowling. All approved. Motion passed.
7. AY 2022-23 Assessment Updates (Colleen Stapleton):
   1. Reviewed timelines for assessment of the competencies Communicating effectively in writing, Communicating effectively orally, Reasoning quantitatively, Analyzing observed phenomena through the use of scientific reasoning, and Thinking critically from diverse perspectives (the latter to be replaced by Global Engagement and Interpretive Reasoning)
   2. Reports by units are due to UGEC chairs by Sept. 30, 2023, for upload on Compliance Assist
8. Other business

Vice Provost Reffitt reported that the University is looking into acquiring new catalog management software that will upload approved course and program changes automatically to the catalog.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by Suzie Madden.