

Mercer University
University General Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday 10/26/23 (Zoom)

Committee Members present: Achim Kopp, Colleen Stapleton, Suzie Madden, Abby Dowling, Christopher Schmitz, Maura Schlairet, Tabitha Anderson, Wesley Barker, Sharon Augustine, Danielle Buehrer, Candace Barnett, Troy Nash, Stephen Hill, Tammy Crutchfield, Nannette Turner

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

- 1) Colleen Stapleton welcomed new members; Achim Kopp reviewed committee charges
- 2) Minute takers for 2023-24 meetings: Christopher Schmitz (October), Tammy Crutchfield (February), Stephen Hill (March)
- 3) Approval of minutes from March 30, 2023 meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Tammy Crutchfield, seconded by Stephen Hill. All approved. Minutes passed.
- 4) Point of information from CLAS:
 - a. Curriculum change (Abby Dowling)—Renaming of HIS 105 from “Western Histories” to “Global Histories,” allowing the course to expand its scope beyond Europe and the United States. Student learning outcomes remain unchanged.
 - i. Colleen suggested that the title should be updated in the University catalog as well.
- 5) Request to update forms used for General Education revisions (Abby Dowling)
 - a. Achim and Colleen will discuss with Kelly Reffitt to update the forms and possibly also publicize the associated rubrics online.
- 6) There is a need to revise the SACS-COC Assessment Calendar.
 - a. The calendar should be updated to reflect recent changes in the list of competencies...specifically, the replacement of Critical Thinking from Diverse Perspectives with Interpretive Reasoning and Global Engagement.

- b. The faculty assessment deadlines will need to be adjusted in order to align with the institutional SACS submission deadline of early September 2025 (Troy Nash).
 - c. Colleen and Achim will talk with Troy about revising the SACS assessment cycle.
- 7) Courses that were previously listed under the Critical Thinking competency must be re-evaluated to determine which current competencies fit them.
- a. Further discussion is needed within our committee regarding the alignment between our assessment competencies and the catalog curriculum categories.
 - b. Colleen suggested that members of this committee begin to discuss with our respective faculty units the following items:
 - i. Should these competencies be what we are assessing in our gen ed classes?
 - ii. Which competencies map to which classes within our gen ed offerings?
- 8) Other business
- a. Achim has consolidated information regarding competencies and SLOs, and has posted that info for reference. The next step will be to add rubrics.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Submitted by Christopher Schmitz