

General Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Oct 23, 2020 2-3 pm

Attendees: Nick Cooley, Daniel Murphree, Ethan Hawkley, Brandy Nielsen, Rita Pujari, Denise Padilla, Laurie Walsh, and Mary Doucette (ex-officio)

1. Reviewed meeting with Mary Doucette and Brian Zeiszler in regard to upper-division general education changes. All agree having transferrable courses for upper-division general education is an excellent goal; Zeiszler reported the plan of switching from nontransferable INT courses to transferrable discipline specific course was favorably received in Leadership Council.

It's the how to get there that is the problem. Because strategic planning has not yet begun and it will relate to general education programs, it has been decided to wait on any kind of general education model until the strategic plan is progressing.

2. The Arts and Letters department raised the issue that the core objectives developed by the math, science and social science core areas are problematic in that these would all need to be assessed at some point. The committee recognizes this is a problem and has shelved the objectives until we have a better idea of what kind of model we will use.

However, it is felt that outlining the objectives has helped the three departments think about what they want upper-division general education courses to do.

3. In general, the committee and Doucette are generally in favor of retaining the 4 core areas (humanities, math, science, and social science) as these offer a great deal of breadth for students lacking lower-division general education.

4. Doucette suggested that in the interim (until the strategic plan is underway), the relevant departments (Arts and Letters, Math, Science, and Social Science) create just a few 300-level transferrable courses that could meet the needs of transferability (and transcripts for those going for graduate programs). Arts and Letters has declined this suggestion opting to wait until we know more about strategic planning, but math is adopting an existing CCN Special Topics in Mathematics course (Math 389) that can be used in lieu of the INT math seminar and social science is likewise developing a few 300-level transferrable courses. Walsh is proposing a new 300-level anthropology course called (De)Constructing Race Anth 332 and Hawkley is working on a 300-level class in world history. These courses will use the basic requirements for INTs (with the new math designations) so that all Bachelor students can enroll. Of course, all of these courses are pending approval from the CCN review and CR at GBC.

It is also recognized there is a certain risk in doing this because we are putting the cart before the horse. But math and social science are okay with putting a few courses out there to get this going.

5. In short, we await the strategic plan.....