**Council on General Education Minutes**

**October 5, 2017 – 3:30 p.m. – Stipes 501**

**Fall 2017 CGE Membership**

Betsy Perabo Liberal Arts & Sciences (Multicultural)

Keith Holz, Chair Art (Humanities/Fine Arts)

Kishor Kapale Physics (Math/Natural Sciences)

Jongnam Choi Geography (Social Sciences)

Krista Bowers Sharpe Library (At-Large)

Kathleen O’Donnell-Brown English (Basic Skills/Writing)

Jonathan Day Political Science (Social Sciences)

Steve Bennett Geology (Math/Natural Sciences)

Ute Chamberlin History (Humanities)

Gary Daytner Educational Studies (At-Large)

David Zanolla Communication (Basic Skills/Public Speaking)

Colton Markey Student Government Association

Kyle Mayborn College of Arts & Sciences (Ex-Officio, Dean’s Council Rep.)

Nancy Parsons Office of the Provost (Ex-Officio, Provost’s Rep.)

Michelle Yager Advising Center (Ex-Officio, COAA Rep.)

Mike Lukkarinen RPTA (Human Well-Being)

**GERC Members**

Gordon Pettit Philosophy (Arts & Sciences)

Martin Maskarinec Computer Sciences (Business & Technology)

Emily Shupe DFMH (COEHS)

Cheryl Bailey Communication (Fine Arts and Communication)

Marjorie Allison English (Past Chair, CGE)

Diane Sandage Sociology & Anthropology (Past Chair, CGE)

Kristine Kelly Psychology (CAGAS)

**Elected Members Present:** Perabo, Holz, Kapale, Choi, Bowers-Sharpe, O’Donnell-Brown, Day, Bennett, Chamberlin, Daytner, Zanolla, Markey

**GERC Members Present:** Pettit, Maskarinec, Shupe, Bailey, Allison, Sandage

**Elected Members Excused/Absent**: Lukkarinen

**GERC Members Excused/Absent:** none

**Ex-Officio Members (CGE/GERC) Present:** Mayborn, Parsons

**Ex-Officio Members Excused/Absent:** Yager, Kelly

**Visitors:**  Lori Baker-Sperry (Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Intern in Office of the Provost)

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes and Agenda**

Call to Order: Chair Holz called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Minutes: Several changes and amendments were made to the minutes. Discussion also ensued regarding format of future minutes to reflect and summarize general discussions as opposed to semi-transcript format.

Kathleen O’Donnell-Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Krista Bowers Sharpe seconded the motion.

Agenda: No changes to the agenda were proposed.

Announcement by Keith Holz (Chair): Department of History event on Syrian refugees tonight. Holz noted that CIE gave a presentation at the last Faculty Senate meeting, and that CIE is currently in the process of reviewing its own criteria for Global Issues courses but is not yet ready to share its findings. Holz also raised the question whether we want to add to our agenda a regular report on what transpires in Faculty Senate of direct relevance to CGE/GERC. Betsy Perabo agrees to report on relevant information from the Faculty Senate.

**New Business**

Nancy Parsons: All assessment data and impact reports for Spring and Summer 2017 are due October 6.

Kyle Mayborn: Nothing to report

Michelle Yager: Absent

Keith Holz: (already made during the announcements above).

**Gen Ed Assessment**

a. Discussion of current model and implementation of Gen Ed Assessment and how well it enhances student learning, and ensures HLC accreditation.

General discussion took place on how to use the assessment data within WIU’s four-part model. Is there a way that faculty and departments could make better use of the assessment data after they have been submitted to the chairs and then returned to departments from the Office of the Provost? Broader issues were raised and discussed about the value, adequacy and satisfaction with WIU’s current Gen Ed Assessment model. Discussion focused on the challenges of interpreting data for courses that are taught at different times and/or attract students with different skill levels, and comparing/collating data from online courses with those from in-class courses. It was noted that data collection ensures that assessment takes place and that faculty and chairs engage in GenEd issues. There was consensus that no major modifications to the model should be made until after the HLC review.

b. Discuss and vote upon changes to the language of the current (2007) Assessment Plan, "Section D" to align with current practice, and add clarity.

Following a brief introduction by Holz, Provost Parsons and Baker-Sperry clarified the nature and purpose of the textual changes to the above 2007 Assessment Plan document.\*\*

Marjorie Allison made a motion to approve the changes to Assessment of Student Learning in General Education.

Diane Sandage seconded the motion.

Vote on whether to approve changes to Assessment of Student Learning in General Education document: 17 voted yes, 0 voted no, 0 abstentions.

\*\* Included as an attachment at the end of these Minutes

c. Rationale & proposal to form a GERC Subcommittee "to review the structure of General Education Assessment."

Discussion ensued whether GERC, as requested of it by Provost Parsons and Baker-Sperry, should form a subcommittee to review the structure of General Education Assessment. Holz proposed forming two Assessment committees, one to address “closing the feedback loop,” the other to assess the entirety of the Gen Ed Assessment model in place at WIU. However, convincing arguments were made to form only one subcommittee to “review the structure of General Education Assessment” which would include addressing how to improve the interpretation and use of Impact Reports (formerly known as “closing the feedback loop”). Holz stressed the need for this committee to work in a timely way.

Marjorie Allison made a motion to have a GERC Subcommittee on Assessment.

Kishor Kapale seconded the motion.

Vote on whether to form GERC Subcommittee on Assessment: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Several GERC members volunteered to join the new subcommittee.

The new subcommittee members are: Gary Daytner, Emily Shupe, Steve Bennett, Kishor Kapale, Nancy Parsons (ex-officio).

**Subcommittee Reports**

Natural Sciences & Mathematics: Still in progress. Bennett stated that a newly modified proposal was currently being completed. Holz asked Bennett and other members of this committee to share it with him via email, and also post it to the GERC shared drive well before the next meeting. Holz asked all members of GERC to review the materials compiled by this subcommittee in preparation for discussion at the next meeting, which will also include the Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy, Professor Iraj Kalantari who has asked to appear before GERC to address his concerns about proposed changes.

Social Sciences subcommittee: Members of the committee announced that they had met a couple of times, but were not yet ready to present their recommendations.

Multicultural/FLGI subcommittee: Committee members stated they were in general agreement and had completed working (and shared) drafts of its report. The subcommittee indicated that they wished to hold off writing the catalogue language before any final decisions were made about the category’s relationship to the over-arching Gen Ed curriculum.

Holz reminded members that GERC will return to curriculum issues at the next meeting. Next week’s meeting will include discussion of the Natural Sciences & Mathematics subcommittee report and separate GenEd proposals prepared by Maskarinec and Perabo.

**Adjournment**

Committee adjourned at 4:56pm.

**Proposal for the**

**Assessment of Student Learning in General Education**

**At Western Illinois University**

**Approved by the General Education Review Committee**

**February 15, 2007**

**Proposed Language:**

**D. Impact**: The results of General Education Assessment can be used by a variety of stakeholders.

1.   Faculty can use assessment results to adjust teaching methods or course content if students are not meeting faculty members’ expectations for student learning.

2. Departments can use assessment results to initiate adjustments in the departmental curriculum. Results can also foster discussion of teaching methods among departmental faculty.

3. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will receive General Education assessment results from the departments in each college that offer General Education courses.

4. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will compile department assessment information for institutional purposes. The Provost’s office will provide General Education assessment results and impact statements annually to the Council on General Education, compiled by goal, unless CGE requests otherwise.

5.   The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will act upon General Education assessment results and impact statements.  The Associate Provost will work with departments to meet Higher Learning Commission requirements for Western Illinois University Accreditation.

6. The Council on General Education will report on General Education assessment to the Faculty Senate.  The Council on General Education will use assessment results as part of its ongoing review of General Education. Any actions taken as a result of General Education assessment will be reported annually to the Faculty Senate.

7.   The Faculty Senate will be kept informed of assessment activities by the Council on General Education and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Additional information may be requested.

**Modified From:**

**D. Feedback**: The results of General Education Assessment can be used by a variety of actors.

1.   Faculty can use assessment results to adjust teaching methods or course content if students are not meeting faculty members’ expectations for student learning.

2. Departments can use assessment results to initiate adjustments in the departmental curriculum. Results can also foster discussion of teaching methods among departmental faculty.

3. Deans will receive General Education assessment results from the departments in each college that offers General Education courses. These reports will be transmitted to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

4. The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will compile department assessment information for institutional purposes. The Provost’s office will provide General Education assessment results annually to the Council on General Education, as they are submitted by departments, unless CGE requests otherwise. The Council on General Education will report on General Education assessment to the Faculty Senate.

5. The Council on General Education will use assessment results as part of its ongoing review of General Education. Any actions taken as a result of General Education assessment will be reported annually to the Faculty Senate.

6. The Faculty Senate will be kept informed of assessment activities by the Council on General Education and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Additional information may be requested.