**Council on General Education Minutes**

**December 7, 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:** Kapale, Zanolla, Perabo, Holz, Bowers-Sharpe, Day, Bennett, Chamberlin, Markey, O’Donnell-Brown

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

**Elected Members Excused/Absent**: Daytner, Choi, Lukkarinen

**GERC Members Excused/Absent:** Bailey

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

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

**Visitors:** Iraj Kalantari (Dept. of Mathematics and Philosophy chair).

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

Call to Order: Chair Holz called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes: Several changes and amendments were made last meeting’s minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.

Agenda: No additions to the agenda.

Roll Call: A verbal roll call was taken.

Announcements: No announcements.

**New Business**

Reports:

Associate Provost Nancy Parsons – Nothing to report.

Kyle Mayborn – Nothing to report.

Michelle Yager – Not Present.

Keith Holz – Betsy Perabo can report on the Faculty Senate discussion of the CCPI report.

Betsy Perabo – Distributed a summary of the major elements of the CCPI report from October 26, 2017, and the discussion of the report that took place during Faculty Senate meeting on December 5, 2017. CCPI is not recommending any substantive changes to the comprehensive major or additional restrictions to minor choices (to avoid “silo’ing” or choosing minors closely related to their major).

Krista Bowers Sharpe commented that the main take-away from the report is that Gen Ed is crucial for providing students with breadth of education.

Gordon Pettit asked if there was a discussion about the purpose and philosophy of having minors at the University by CCPI. Betsy responded that there was no discussion about the purpose of having minors.

There was a discussion about whether majors and minors can be from essentially the same field.

Nancy Parsons: Majors and minors cannot share the same program name.

Diane Sandage commented that student representatives at Senate get concerned when restrictions of minor choices are discussed and might misunderstand the direction of the discussion.

The discussion of the report was then tabled.

Review of Proposals by Subcommittees:

Presentation and Review of revised Natural Sciences and Math Proposal:

Holz: read from recent email from Registrar: Angela Lynn, who clarified that no other state university in Illinois is giving credit for Math 99 or remedial Math courses. A copy of Lynn’s email is on our shared drive

Steve Bennett: Receiving credit for Math 99 is not a recommendation by the subcommittee, but it is supported if the Math department wants to pursue it. If removing the names of courses from the catalog creates a difficulty for transfer students, we do not support this action. We still recommend changing the category name to Quantitative Reasoning, but there is no change to the substance or the name of Math competency as the requirement.

Nancy Parsons: IBHE does not allow credits to be given for remedial courses. IBHE is discussing an initiative that would allow students to take math courses in their senior year and with the support of community colleges to get them ready for college.

Overarching Curricular proposals by individuals:

Betsy Perabo presented her proposal:

Her proposal highlights the essential skills that are needed in the suggested revision to the Gen Ed curriculum. She emphasized that the Gen Ed curriculum has to be understandable and appealing to students.

Marjorie Allison asked about if there is still a writing requirement for Humanities or Gen Ed courses and particularly about the number of pages needed to be written.

Associate Provost Parsons clarified that there is no specific page-length requirement.

Ute Chamberlin asked about if the suggested 15 to 20 pages of writing recommended for the Humanities courses would be appropriate to foreign languages. Colton Markey commented that he writes extensively in the Spanish classes that he takes.

Keith Holz commented that the essential skills emphasized in Humanities also apply to Fine Arts. This would therefore provide some issues with the way the proposal breaks out essential skills. He also pointed out that CGE might consider actively promoting writing and other aspects of Gen Ed via TelStars. In short, not only use a stick to enforce, but a carrot to encourage. He stressed that education of the faculty about Gen Ed is one of CGE’s charges.

Kathleen O’Donnell-Brown said that “substantive” writing in Gen Ed was required [or actively promoted?] about 10 years ago.

Associate Provost Nancy Parsons said that we would have to look into policy and procedures to find language about writing requirements Associate Dean Jim Schmidt may have authored the Gen Ed mass email(s) years ago.

Kyle Mayborn added that Bill Thompson from Libraries contacted new faculty about Gen Ed course requirements in the past.

Kristine Kelly then commented that in WID courses, 50% of the final grade has to be writing.

Perabo: Students need to understand that Humanities courses will be writing-intensive.

Bowers Sharpe: The language about writing requirements in the “Writing to Learn” document is very flexible.

Marty Maskarinec presented his proposal:

His proposal re-arranges the categories so that the Multicultural category becomes a subcategory of Humanities/Fine Arts and Social Sciences, where the student would have to take 6 hours of Multicultural classes, one class from each larger category. There was also added a General Education Elective Category that provides students with 3-4 hours of electives that may help transfer students.

Jonathan Day then asked about the 2 course department limit and how that would be applied if there was a general education elective category. This was open to discussion.

Gordon Pettit commented that this proposal would disadvantage departments like Political Science who had fewer multicultural classes.

The proposal was tabled.

Emily Shupe then presented her proposal:

Her proposal categorizes courses by the various Gen Ed assessment goals. The number of courses required to take by each goal could be up for discussion. Associate Provost Nancy Parsons commented that there would be turf battles over whose goals were more significant. Marjorie Allison commented that Math, Science, and English should not be listed in the same category since they are vastly different.

After a brief and rushed overview by Shupe of this proposal it was tabled .

**Adjournment**

At 5:03pm the meeting was adjourned.