**WIU Council on General Education**

**Minutes**

**Zoom Video Conference, 3:30 pm**

## ​[**https://wiu.zoom.us/j/93567795414?pwd=Q3gxSzVUeG9KR1lOVDF5c1Z1d25nUT09**](https://wiu.zoom.us/j/93567795414?pwd=Q3gxSzVUeG9KR1lOVDF5c1Z1d25nUT09)

**April 22nd, 2021**

**Spring 2021 CGE Members**

Andrea Alveshere, Chair (2022) Anthropology (Social Sciences)

Lori Baker-Sperry (2021) Liberal Arts & Sci. (Multicultural)

Robert Kelly (2021) LEJA (At-large)

Wanmo Koo (2022) Mgmt. & Marketing (At-large)

Sherry Lindquist (2023) Art & Design (Humanities/Fine Arts)

Tonya Little, Vice Chair (2023) Communication (Basic Skills/Public Speaking)

Lia Petracovici (2023) Math & Philosophy (Math/Natural Sciences)

Yong Tang (2022) Broadcasting & Journalism (Humanities/Fine Arts)

Craig Tollini, Secretary (2021) Sociology (Social Sciences)

Seyfi Turkelli (2022) *Sabbatical* Math & Philosophy (Math/Natural Sciences)

*Vacant* (Basic Skills/Writing)

*Vacant* (Human Well-Being)

Da’Veonna Campbell Student Gov't. Assoc.

Jim Schmidt C.A.S. (Ex-officio, Dean's Council Rep.)

Mark Mossman Office of Provost (Ex-officio, Provost's Rep.)

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

**New Fall 2021 Appointments**

Robert Kelly (2024) LEJA

Febe Pamonag (2024) History

Magdelyn Helwig (2024) English

Robert Intrieri (2024) Psychology

Adam Lewis (2022) Theatre and Dance

1. Call to order at 3:33.

2. Minutes from April 8th, 2021 approved. Motion to approve by Tonya Little and seconded by Craig Tollini.

3. Additions to Agenda: None.

4. Roll Call: Lia Petracovici and Jim Schmidt absent. Febe Pamonag present through item 6. Robert Kelly, Tonya Little, and Mark Mossman left during item 7.

5. Announcements: Andrea Alveshere said the outgoing members are Lori Baker-Sperry and Craig Tollini, with Robert Kelly ending one term and starting another. Lori Baker-Sperry plans to periodically attend meetings during the 2021-2022 year to provide assessment reports. The specific areas of the new members are not known, but Andrea Alveshere will obtain that information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

6. Election of CGE officers for 2021-2022 academic year: Sherry Lindquist self-nominated for Secretary, Robert Kelly self-nominated for Chair, and Andrea Alveshere self-nominated for Vice Chair. Motion to approve the slate of candidates by Tonya Little and seconded by Craig Tollini. Vote: Yes-8, No-0, Abstentions-0.

7. Consider suggestion to allow certain 300-level courses to count for non-Multicultural Gen Ed credit: Andrea Alveshere said Sherry Lindquist provided this suggestion, which Sherry Lindquist described more fully. The suggestion is to provide students with the option to have 300-level courses count for General Education credit for areas outside of Multicultural Studies (MC). If the purpose of General Education is to help students develop skills related to discussing difficult issues, conducting research, constructing arguments, and finding and analyzing appropriate sources, 300-level courses are likely to better fulfill that purpose, compared to 100- and 200-level courses.

The Council members discussed various aspects of this suggestion. There are 300-level courses that could arguably be General Education courses, and Lori Baker-Sperry described how one 300-level General Education course would be taught differently if it no longer counted in the MC area.

At least some students do not appear to have the skills mentioned above, and having additional options for students may address this issue. A complementary or alternative suggestion is to have workshops or other pedagogical events for faculty members. These events would focus on the purpose of General Education and the skills students should obtain via General Education courses. Having these events may increase the likelihood that students gain those skills.

When the MC area of General Education began, 300-level courses were exempted from the policy that General Education courses are 100- or 200-level. This exemption occurred because there were not enough 100- and 200-level courses in the MC area at that time. There continued to be a lack of 100- and 200-level courses, in part due to the elimination of programs (Women’s Studies, African American Studies, etc.) and loss of faculty who taught 100- and 200-level courses in the MC area. Given this exemption, there was an alternative suggestion to determine how the existing 300-level courses could be transferred to the 100- or 200-level. There was a related suggestion for faculty to consider if other 300-level courses could be altered to the 100- or 200-level and then be incorporated into General Education. On a related note, there seemed to be perceived value in having consistency in General Education, regarding which types of courses were included and excluded.

Students can already have individual substitutions in their degree program, and it was suggested that students be made more aware of this option.

Two interconnected issues with having 300-level courses in the General Education program is the articulation agreement focuses on 100- and 200-level courses and General Education is defined (both within and outside of WIU) as focused on introductory courses. Both the MC area and the Human Well-Being area are not part of the articulation agreement. It was noted that the purpose of General Education may need to be reconsidered before the initial suggestion could be implemented.

Another issue was determining the criteria to determine which 300-level courses could be considered, with one suggestion being courses that have at most one prerequisite. It was also mentioned departments may work to have as many courses be included in General Education as possible because doing so will most likely increase student credit hours. As a result, departments might remove prerequisites so more courses meet the criterion mentioned above.

8. Reports

a. Provost -- Mark Mossman, Interim Associate Provost: No report.

b. CAS – Jim Schmidt: Not present/No report.

c. University Advising -- Michelle Yager: No report.

d. Student Learning Assessment Subcommittee – Lori Baker-Sperry: Lori Baker-Sperry will send a request to form the subcommittee in September, with the hope that the subcommittee is formed by October. Since Lori Baker-Sperry is no longer a member of the Council, a Council member serving on the subcommittee may provide reports to the Council.

e. CGE Chair – Andrea Alveshere: No report.

9. Good of the Order: Andrea Alveshere asked what the process was for changing which goals are assessed and why two goals are assessed. Lori Baker-Sperry said the department chair would send a request to the Council’s Chair and to reduce workload, respectively. Sherry Lindquist suggested the Council develop a statement regarding the impact of program eliminations, faculty lay-offs and departures, and hiring freezes on General Education and the academic programs that support it. Such a statement could note the shameful way in which the previous Board and administration did not appear to prioritize General Education.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00.

Next Meeting of CGE: Fall 2021 (Schedule will be Thursdays at 3:30, alternate weeks to CCPI)

*Proposed List of CGE subgroups to evaluate articulation requests:*

**Communication Skills:** Little, *Vacant*

**Humanities/Fine Arts:** Lindquist, Tang

**Social Sciences:** Alveshere, Tollini

**Natural Sciences/Math:** Petracovici, Turkelli (*sabbatical*)

**MC/FLGI:**  Baker-Sperry

**Human Well-Being:**  *Vacant*