

General Education Committee Minutes from May 17, 2017

Members present: Pearson Cross, Fabrice Leroy, Robert McKinney, Alise Hagan, Emily Deal, Carolyn Dural, Jonathan Goodwin, Burke Huner, Jordan Kellman, James Kimball, Ashok Kumar, Michael McClure, Lana Rodriguez

The meeting opened with a quick discussion of the tasks facing the committee over the summer and the urgency of the charge. These included the following items from the Agenda:

Which classes are Gen Ed? Who decides?

Should GenEd classes make adoption of goals and outcomes explicit?

What is an appropriate assessment strategy for GenEd classes?

And finally, what to do about the humanities requirement?

The Committee then turned to Jimmy Kimball to discuss the GenEd Math requirements of the University's departments. A spread sheet showing which math classes were required by which departments and degree programs was distributed and led to a discussion.

Differences between programs and the rationale for various requirements were discussed. This discussion focused principally on whether programs could allow any 6 credits of math as their GenEd requirement, or were compelled by accreditation or some other reason to require higher-level courses. In the case of Architecture it was noted that the requirement was 109 and 110 for example. The reasons for this and other different requirements were debated, and the option of allowing for a waiver was weighed. It was stated that 10,000 of 16,000 UL undergraduates were in programs with accreditation requirements and that the trouble of unlocking the GenEd electives might not be worth the bother. Others pointed out that anything that opened up electives and hastened the path to graduation for undergrads was worth pursuing.

Math Assessment program was discussed. Jimmy K discussed the current procedure, the number of classes assessed, and the expectations for student success. He noted that while assessment had been limited to 103, 105, it was now being expanded in the fall to include STAT 214. The discussion broadened to talk about what might be desirable in terms of assessment, how many classes, how many sections, what standards and so on. It was speculated that there may be national standards for GenEd assessment that could be of help. At this point, it was noted that the various departments and majors at UL had formulated the Goals and Objectives which guide assessment and hence were in the best position to decide the implementation of assessment.

In terms of immediate action it was suggested that the working groups that originally put together or currently oversee the Goals and Outcomes that guide GenEd Assessment meet (potentially with Alise Hagan and/or Pearson Cross) to decide which courses will retain GenEd status in their fields and also which courses they plan to assess for GenEd. Pearson and Alise are going to contact the various workgroups and request that they begin this task, with a deadline, if possible, of the **next GenEd meeting which was set for June 7 at 1 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of the Meeting of the UL Lafayette General Education Committee

2/7/18

Present: Pearson Cross, Fabrice Leroy, Alise Hagan, Christie Maloyed, Lisa Broussard, Carolyn Dural, Jordan Kellman, James Kimball, Lana Rodriguez, Lise Anne Slatten, Sara Birk, Febee Louka, Lee Price, Andrea Flockton, Ryan Teten, Beth Giroir, Ahmed Khattab,

The meeting was opened at one pm with a greeting to new members. This proceeded into a short discussion of membership on the GenEd committee that was tabled awaiting arrival of Robert McKinney.

The next item on the Agenda was GenEd Assessment. Jordan told the committee about developments in the area of Humanities assessment, using the projector to show the changed pattern of classes and the objectives relating to them. Jordan discussed the various difficulties encountered in shaping current classes to requirements shaped by Regent's rules. A discussion of how changing GenEd requirements might change attendance and enrollment in various classes focused on classes in communication and other likely effects. The humanities assessment group's work was approved by the committee. Pearson briefly presented an update on progress in the area of social and behavioral sciences assessment.

A brief discussion of the inclusion of Music 306 as an approved GenEd course ensued. It was suggested that the pattern of this approval (from Department to Arts GenEd assessment Committee, to GenEd Committee) was the appropriate path for new GenEd courses to take.

Pearson gave a progress report on the continuing effort to win support for the uncoupling of GenEd electives from major requirements, describing a trip to the Dean's meeting and near future visit with the Faculty Senate.

This led to a discussion of the membership of the committee. The different members of the committee discussed how they learned that they had been placed on the committee or removed from it. The role of voting and non-voting members was questioned. The role of the departed Ellen Cook in updating committee membership was discussed. A general discussion ensued in which it was stated that the GenEd committee should have control over its own members, and that membership should be in part determined by the courses that qualified for GenEd status. Pearson

suggested that (in principle) the GenEd committee should be made up of representatives from each area offering GenEd courses, e.g. Freshman Writing (6 hours), Humanities (9) Social and Behavioral sciences (6), Math (6), Sciences (9), First Year Experience (3), and the Arts (3). These should be supplemented by representatives from each College and then by appropriate administrators, as well as the University director of assessment. There was general agreement that these were the pertinent areas for representation on the Committee. Proceeding any further on this issue was curtailed until Robert could attend given the importance of his office with regard to committees.

Future dates of the committee for spring 2018 were set for **March 14**, **April 11**, and **May 9** (as needed).

The meeting adjourned.