

MINUTES

General Education Council

January 12, 2021 – Webex video conference

Present: Dr. Christina Conroy, Dr. Robin Blankenship, Dr. Laurie Couch, Dr. Wilson Gonzalez-Espada, Dr. Morgan Getchell, Dr. Mark Graves, Dr. Shannon Harr, Dr. Kouroush Jenab, Mr. Keith Moore, Ms. Kerry Murphy, Dr. Robert Royar, Dr. Edna Schack, Dr. Chris Schroeder & Dr. Timothy Simpson

Absent: Dr. Bo Shi, Dr. Michael Fultz

- I. **Associate Degree General Education Program:** Dr. Couch stated that the external reviewer of the SACSCOC self-study identified a concern with MSU's compliance with Standard 9 concerning the associate degree general education program. The standard was shared with the committee prior to the meeting for review and includes the following in section 3:

The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:

(a) is based on a coherent rationale.

(b) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.

(c) ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/ fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/ mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.

Currently, MSU's associate degree general education program meets both (a) and (b) and partially (c) with the required 15-hour program which consists of the baccalaureate degree general education program "core":

First Year Seminar – 3 hours

Writing I – 3 hours

Writing II – 3 hours

Oral Communications – 3 hours

MATH Reasoning – 3-4 hours

The associate degree general education program does not currently require a humanities/fine arts course nor a social/behavioral sciences course.

Dr. Graves stated that administrators overseeing associate degree programs met to discuss proposing curriculum changes. The programs plan to propose revisions through the standard UG Curriculum approval process as follows:

- Associate of Arts – University Studies: Add both course types as requirements within free elective hours allotted.
- Associate of Applied Science – Business Administration: Currently requires a social/behavior science course. Add fine arts/humanities course and reduce required elective hours.
- Associate of Applied Science – Engineering Technology: Add both course types as requirements.
- Associate of Applied Science – Nursing: Currently requires a social/behavior science course. Add fine arts/humanities course.
- Associate of Applied Science – Radiologic Sciences: Currently requires a social/behavior science course. Add fine arts/humanities course.
- Associate of Applied Science – Respiratory Care: Currently requires a social/behavior science course. Add fine arts/humanities course.
- Associate of Applied Science – Veterinary Technology: Add both course types as requirements.

Dr. Blankenship asked if specific courses needed identified for addition to the associate degree general education requirements. Dr. Couch stated that a variety of courses would qualify. Dr. Schack suggested that the language added/edited for the associate degree general education program requirements mirror/align with the language for bachelor degree general education to the extent possible. Dr. Simpson moved to approve adding the requirements. Christina Conroy seconded. The committee unanimously approved. Drs. Couch and Graves agreed to make the associated changes on the necessary documents. Revised documents will be provided to the committee.

II. **Next meeting: TBA.** The agenda will include a preliminary summary of the Fall 2020 general education assessment results by Dr. Harr and an update from the Registrar.