

Minutes

General Education Council

October 12, 2021 3:30 p.m. via Webex

Present: Dr. Christina Conroy, Dr. Laurie Couch, Dr. Morgan Getchell, Dr. Wilson Gonzalez-Espada, Dr. Mark Graves, Dr. Shannon Harr, Mr. Keith Moore, Ms. Lora Pace, Dr. Chris Schroeder, & Dr. Timothy Simpson

Absent: Dr. Julia Finch, Dr. Robert Royar, Dr. Bo Shi, Dr. Suzy White

- I. **Minutes from September 14, 2021** – Dr. Blankenship moved to approve. Dr. Simpson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- II. **Verifications** – Dr. Harr stated that two courses remain without an approved verification form. He is continuing to work with course representatives.
- III. **Sampling Plan** – The subcommittee (Dr. Conroy, Dr. Schroeder, Dr. Simpson and Dr. White) met and selected sections of current general education courses for assessment reporting. Instructors have been notified if their section was selected. He stated that some had questions about the new assessment procedure. He answered questions and referred them to the document available online ([Assessment Procedures in New General Education](#)). He stated that the subcommittee needs to meet again to select sections from those that completed assessment in 2021 Spring.
- IV. **2020-21 Assessment Results and Improvement Plans** - Dr. Graves stated that the data for ENG 100 and 200 assessments are still being processed. He stated that they will be submitted as soon as possible but it prevented a more finalized presentation.

Dr. Harr presented an update of the previously reported preliminary assessment results. He stated that for fall 2020 term, the 70% goal for percentage assessed was not met for SLO 2b (58%) and 6b (68%). The attainment goal was met for all SLOs. For the Spring term, the 70% goal for percentage assessed is not currently met for 1c, 2a, 2c, and 2b; however, once data is reported from ENG 100 and 200 it should exceed it. The 70% goal for percentage assessed is not met for 2d (60%) however when combined with the fall 2020 percentage, it will exceed the goal. The 70% goal for percentage assessed in not met for 2c (29%) and for 6b (69%); when combined with the fall 20202 percentage, these two will remain under the 70% goal. The attainment goal was met for all SLOs. For the fall 2020 term there were 22 sections that did not report data. Excluding ENG 100 and 200, there are 15 sections that

have not reported data. Of the 37 sections that did not submit data for 2020-21, nine were Eagle Scholar sections, which is up from 25 last year and 28 were MSU faculty/staff, which is the same as last year. Dr. Harr stated that it is nearly always the same faculty that do not submit data. Deans and Chairs are made aware when the data is not submitted. Dr. Harr stated that at the course level, an action plan may be required for ENG 200 since they did not meet the 70% attainment goal for the fall 2020 term on three SLOs and two of which continue into the 2021+ general education program:

1c (now SLO 2)– 60% attainment

2a (now SLO 5) – 60% attainment

2c (not in 2021+ general education) - 59% attainment

It is possible that the results for Spring can bring up the percentages to where an action plan is not needed.

Dr. Couch stated that once the data is finalized and an action plan is submitted (if required), it will be sent to the committee via email for online review to meet the timeline to submit the annual report to the CPE.

- V. **Report on Fall 2021 baseline enrollment data/Spring 2022 offerings** – Dr. Couch stated that she had planned to present a report of the sections offered in the new general education program; however, she is unable to access Tableau, the software platform used to generate the report. If possible, she will send it in the email with the assessment data. The report will show the number of sections in each category and the number of students served. It will also include some comparisons to the old general education. Dr. Conroy asked if the number of students who were one waitlists were included in the information. Dr. Couch stated that the information was not included and a short discussion occurred concerning how to track waitlist data. Mr. Moore stated that a newly available feature that MSU is considering implementing would allow chairs to better manage the waitlists on courses. He also stated that if MSU began using the course planning feature and students built their course schedules for all courses on their degree plan, student preference could be used to determine course offerings. Dr Couch stated that more information would be provide later.
- VI. **FYS Subcommittee Report** – Ms. Pace stated that the FYS subcommittee met on September 23. They discussed the fall statistics, the outcome of the course review that occurred over the summer, instructor training concerning the project that is being used to assess student SLO attainment, and the reading component of FYS 101E. She reported that 822 of approximately 1100 students completed the out-of-

class library assignment. At the next meeting, the subcommittee will be discussing lack of inclusive access to textbooks in some courses and how to best support students in these cases. Upon a request to clarify from Dr. Conroy, she stated that some instructor practices penalize some students. For instance, if an instructor does not notify the bookstore that they plan to use a certain book, then a student can not purchase the book using their aid on their student account and therefor incur an out-of-pocket cost. Dr. Couch asked Ms. Pace to report on the results of the student and instructor surveys completed at week four and eight of the semester at the next meeting.

- VII. **New Business** – Dr. Couch stated that a faculty member has requested the template to add a course to the general education program. She stated that during planning and implementation of the 2021+ General Education Program there was effort to include the minimum number of courses in each category necessary to meet the overall goals of the program. Since adding courses undermines that notion, she is requesting feedback from the Council concerning adding new courses prior to any assessment of the program being completed. Dr. Schroeder stated that the developing committee’s intention was to review existing courses periodically with the possibility of them being replaced by newly approved ones. Dr. Graves stated that the intent at the time was to keep the number small and effective. Through the development process, compromises were made to allow for most departments to have a course included in the new if they had one in the old and wanted one in the new with the understanding that a competitive process would occur after implementation of the new program. At this time, he is not in support of making changes during the first year. He stated that previous Provosts Albert and Russell were not in support of early changes either. Dr. Graves’ preference would be no changes until after one round of complete assessment is finalized but notes that four years may be an excessive amount of time. He stated that he certainly would not support changes this soon. Dr. Simpson concurred with Dr. Dr. Graves’ position. Dr. Conroy stated that the Council should come to a consensus concerning interpretation of Student Learning Outcomes and the expectations associated with courses included in the program prior to entertaining the idea of changing them. Dr. Jenab suggested a dynamic review system which allows for a review of different courses every year and for changes to become effective every two years. Dr. Gonzalez-Espada stated that courses whose instructors repeatedly do not submit assessment data should be reviewed for removal. Dr. Blankenship stated that she supported the type of general education program she remembers as a student which include only a small number of courses. Dr. Gonzalez-Espada stated that the number should not be too low to allow for student preference but not too high

either. Dr. Getchell stated that the general education program should be comprised of the courses that best serve the students. When considering new courses, it will be important for proposers to show evidence how their course will better help the students meet the Student Learning Outcome attainment goals. Dr. Couch stated that given the feedback of the Council, no new proposals will be considered at this time. She will relay this information to the person who requested the template.

Dr. Couch stated that the CPE is preparing to unveil the Kentucky Graduate Profile. It is their vision of what skills a graduate of a Kentucky educational program should possess. A retreat was held last month concerning it. MSU was asked to prepare a presentation for state leaders about our QEP since it includes pertinent aspects of the Kentucky Graduate Profile. Dr. Couch stated that between our general education program and our QEP, MSU meets seven to eight of the ten indicators. The others may be met by individual programs but not campus wide. Dr. Couch stated that CPE is discussing possible revisions to the statewide general education policy due to this new initiative. She will report further as more information becomes available through upcoming CPE press releases and through review of the documents provided as part of her inclusion in the Kentucky Profile Academy.

The meeting adjourned.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: November 9 at 3:30 P.M.

FYS Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Attended: Michelle Barber, Christopher Beckham, Megan Boone, David Flora, Thomas Kmetz, Lora Pace, Janet Ratliff and Alana Scott

- **Fall FYS Statistics**

Lora Pace reported Fall 2021 FYS 101 statistics.

- 65 total sections
- 1,114 total students
- 51 in-person and 3 online
- 11 reading enhanced sections – 80% increase over last year
- New Cartmell Hall LLC and new scholarship cohort in Education

- **Summer Review**

Lora Pace described the review process that took place this summer. Twelve FYS 101 instructors were assigned two theme weeks to review and each week had at least two reviewers. The review covered the Bb shell contents and syllabus. The group did a great job. We have experienced fewer issues with the Bb shell this semester.

- **FYS Subcommittee Restructure Update**

Tom Kmetz said there was no update from Faculty Senate regarding the proposed FYS subcommittee restructure.

- **New SLO Implementation Update**

This past spring, the new FYS SLO assessment for the new General Education Program was piloted. The assessment needs to be reworked for launch in the fall. The small group that worked on the SLO assessment will meet rework the assessment. The small group consisted of Robert Boram, Shannon Harr, Alana Scott and Tom Kmetz.

- **Weeks 1-4 Instructor, Peer Leader and Student Evaluations**

The evaluations were not finished before the meeting, so results will be shared next week and discussed at the next meeting. Any “red flags” will be discussed with the appropriate instructor.

- **FYS 101E**

The reading enhanced course was discussed. Committee members think there needs to be an examination of how the reading enhanced components are taught at other colleges and universities.

- **Library**

Tom Kmetz said the library assignment was going well. He will send an updated list to Lora so instructors will know who has attended and who has not attended.

- **Other**

- We need to learn more about inclusive access and other textbook options to better educate our new students.