

# General Education Council Meeting

**March 30, 2022**

**Webex**

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**Present:** Mark Graves, Co-Chair; Robin Blankenship; Christina Conroy; Julia Finch; Morgan Getchell; Wilson Gonzalez-Espada; Kouroush Jenab; Kerry Murphy; Lora Pace; Robert Royar; Christopher Schroeder; Tim Simpson; Recorder: Gabria Sexton (c/o Donna Besant)

**Absent:** Laurie Couch; Bo Shi; Mary Suzanne White

## I. Welcome

Quorum was established for action items. Mark Graves opened meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Mark explained that Laurie Couch would be absent and that Lora Pace would be in attendance but would be late.

## II. Approval of Minutes: March 2, 2022

The minutes were amended with a correction about Kouroush Jenab's attendance, then approved.

## III. Director of Assessment Position

There has been movement on the position search. A new director will be hired to start April 15<sup>th</sup>. Jill Ratliff has been filling in during the interim supervising and guiding the Council through the Spring assessment process. The new director has a contract in hand and is expected to sign it. Mark Graves said he had "every indication that this individual would sign".

## IV. Sample Selection

The sample has been selected for Spring 2022. Individuals who have been selected have been in contact with Mark Graves. The process for Mark was to identify the courses that would be eligible and eliminate those courses that were not going to be offered in the semester. The 10% necessary sample would include about 200 students. Overall there are roughly 2000 students registered in courses that correspond to SLO's 4, 8, and 10. The strategy was to select courses by each SLO for face-to-face, online, and Eagle Scholars. Mark stated that there was actually a fourth category of "enhanced sections". There were very few Eagle Scholars taking courses. With this selection in mind, the task was then to select the sections that would specifically fill the 200 student roles for assessment. It turned out that most of the course sections were face-to-face on campus. After the selection process, Mark informed the instructors individually.

Mark did not provide a report on the Fall 2021 semester as he explained that how the assessment process has been designed that the data would not be available until the next year. Essentially saying that the data collected from the Fall of 2021 would be included in the full academic year report in Fall of 2022.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding previous Spring's test as a beta for the assessment process as well as the process of improving the assessment so there is better understanding of what is expected and how to assess. Discussion also included explanations on sampling ethics and what types of tests or assignments would be better to pick when sampling courses.

#### **V. Follow-up Process and Previous Year's Plan**

Mark started the discussion about coming up with a plan of action moving forward. The committee is charged with developing a process that would be helpful university-wide for all assessing instructors. Discussion ensued about possible ways to approach it, including holding a mini-conference (i.e., professional development workshop) for faculty, collaborating with Faculty Senate, and having the GEC Co-Chairs host information sessions. No vote was taken on formalized plans. The discussion was tabled (motion by Tim Simpson and second by Robin Blankenship, majority approved).

#### **VI. FYS Subcommittee**

Lora Pace gave a synopsis of the subcommittee actions of Fall evaluation, class schedules compared to previous year, peer leaders identified, learning communities and Appalachian Future Educators. She noted that hiring is still in process for her replacement as FYS Director.

Discussion regarding FYS as a permanent subcommittee of the Gen Ed Council ensued. GEC maintained that the committee will continue oversight.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mark Graves reminded the faculty to fill out their committee interest forms.
2. Kerry Murphy broached the topic of how many SLO's should be approved each semester. Topic suggested to be discussed at a future meeting. Kerry agreed.

#### **ADJOURN**

With no further business to discuss, meeting was adjourned with a motion by Tim Simpson that was seconded by Kouroush Jenab. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting: TBA**