

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
November 14, 2019 Minutes

Meeting Began: 12:37 p.m.
Meeting Adjourned: 1:27 p.m.

Present: Ernest Gobert, Max Simmons, Makenna Green Garrison, Johnny Hill, Glenne' Whisenhunt, Chris Shelley, Gyanendra Baral, Ivana Pavic, Leslie Jones, Michael Boyle, Ron Feller, Steve Shore, Janet Perry, Julie Rice-Rollins, Kim Jameson, Tamala Zolicoffer, Jon Inglett, Dean Reusser

Absent: Teresa Luper, Stephen Morrow

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. Michael Boyle made a motion to accept the minutes, and Chris Shelley seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted with unanimous approval.

Ernest discussed the subcommittees for the Critical Thinking and Human Heritage, Culture, and Institutions rubrics. Calendar invitations for the subcommittees will be sent; each subcommittee has one faculty representative from each division. Leslie asked about a shared document to begin working on the rubric discussion. Shared documents will be sent for the subcommittees to access.

Ernest presented information about artifact submissions. For fall 2018, there were 6251 students who completed 35 college credit hours. In fall 2018, there were 1213 qualified students in BIT, 1244 in AEH, 876 in HP, 1965 in SEM, and 952 in SS. The artifact submissions for 2018-2019 do not reflect these numbers.

The Higher Learning Commission is visiting in fall 2021. Their criteria include “the substantial participation of faculty” and “effective processes for assessment.”

The lack of data makes it difficult for programs to engage in annual assessments. For example, Engineering Technology assessed one artifact for Mathematical Methods and Writing. Liberal Studies assessed five artifacts for Mathematical Methods, four for Human Heritage, seven for Critical Thinking, five for Writing, and two for Public Speaking when 242 qualified students majored in Liberal Studies and 32 in Engineering Technology for the same school year.

It is difficult to draw conclusions from annual General Education assessments when there is inconsistency in the number of artifacts submitted each year.

Participation in assessment is crucial to the College and to student learning.

The General Education Committee co-chairs requested a recommendation from the committee on an implementation plan to improve participation in artifact submission. Starting fall 2019, Moodle would be the location for artifact submissions. A spreadsheet would be a tool available to program chairs and course coordinators to determine at least one assignment for each course in their areas that would be used for General Education artifact submission. Program chairs

would communicate the importance of artifact submission to their areas and identify appropriate assignments.

There was discussion among the committee members about the presentation.

Michael Boyle asked about submission requirements for participation from the Higher Learning Commission.

Gyanendra Baral asked about submitting artifacts and how to do it conveniently. Chris Shelley mentioned that Moodle is available for artifact submission.

Tamala Zolicoffer indicated that her division could look at ways to meet the accreditation requirements each year and also participate in General Education assessment.

Julie Rice-Rollins recommended that the move to participate in artifacts more fully should come from the General Education Committee and from faculty. Max Simmons agreed that the process should be driven by faculty and the committee.

Glenne' Whisenhunt asked if faculty should continue submitting artifacts as they have been while the committee is discussing participation. Ernest Gobert and Makenna Green Garrison indicated that faculty should continue to submit artifacts for qualifying students.

Makenna Green Garrison and Ernest Gobert also emphasized that any recommendations should come from the General Education Committee and asked the committee members to consider the spreadsheet for program chairs to identify assignments for General Education submission.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.