

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
September 12, 2019 Minutes

Meeting Began: 12:40 p.m.
Meeting Adjourned: 1:21 p.m.

Present: Ernest Gobert, Max Simmons, Makenna Green Garrison, Steve Shore, Johnny Hill, Janet Perry, Julie Rice-Rollins, Glenne' Whisenhunt, Chris Shelley, Gyanendra Baral, Ivana Pavic, Kim Jameson, Leslie Jones, Stephen Morrow, Tamala Zolicoffer

Absent: Michael Boyle, Teresa Luper, Ron Feller

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. Julie made a motion to accept the minutes, and the minutes were accepted with unanimous approval.

Ernest welcomed committee members to the General Education Committee and led the committee in introductions.

Makenna showed the guidelines for the General Education Committee. Janet mentioned that it would be helpful to include more information about how the General Education Committee works with the Curriculum Committee regarding the approval of new General Education courses. Kim and Julie pointed out that the need for items to go through the Curriculum Committee is mentioned in the responsibilities section of the General Education guidelines. Makenna mentioned that this information could be added to Moodle as well for additional clarity.

Makenna displayed the General Education Committee course and the General Education Artifact Submission course in Moodle. Ernest discussed some of the faculty feedback from last year regarding the General Education Artifact submission course. Glenne' addressed these questions, and tweaks can be made to the system if needed. There were discussions about submitting to more than one category at the same time and numbering the submissions, and investigations will be made into those items. Glenne' and Stephen mentioned having used the General Education Artifact Submission course successfully. Stephen shared that the system had been easy for him to use.

Ernest led a discussion about General Education overall and shared information about how the process works on campus. Julie asked the question: If I have a student who participated in a cooperative assignment who is eligible for artifact submissions, can I submit artifacts for that student even if the other members from the cooperative assignment are not eligible? Ernest answered that it was possible to submit for that student who was eligible. Leslie asked a question about submitting to the databases. The databases had not been opened to the whole campus yet for the fall 2019 semester, but Makenna indicated that new databases for fall 2019 would soon be available to all faculty.

Ernest discussed that faculty will receive PDF lists of eligible students. He receives the information from Institutional Effectiveness, and Connie Drummond runs automatic reminder lists from Colleague.

Ernest discussed the General Education results from FY 2019. The committee looked at the percentages for all categories. The committee also looked at the numbers of participants by division from FY 2018 and FY 2019. Julie asked if Social Sciences was the biggest contributor of Human Heritage, Culture, and Institutions artifacts. Ernest indicated that many artifacts in that category come from Social Sciences and Arts, English, and Humanities. Julie mentioned that it might be helpful for Ernest to attend division meetings to increase awareness. Also, she mentioned that it might be good to let faculty know that they can submit artifacts at any point in the semester.

Ernest discussed that the committee would need to consider assessment recommendations from the data. He also mentioned working with course coordinators and program chairs to develop general questions and assignments for courses. The math department engaged in this process, and other areas could work on general questions that could be used for submission.

Makenna discussed future goals for General Education. The Higher Learning Commission site visit is in fall 2021, and the College is currently preparing for that visit. She discussed needing to prepare for questions about assessment. She mentioned that these questions are important not just for HLC, but also for our own internal review and student success.

Ernest and Makenna plan to invite faculty from the Critical Thinking Evaluation Team to share strengths, weaknesses, and rubric insights at the October 10th meeting. The committee will disseminate this information to the divisions in order to work on curricular refinement based on the findings.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.