

Approved on April 15, 2024: Lucas moved/Taylor seconded.

General Education Committee

Minutes of the meeting of Mon., 4/1/24

2:30 pm

Library Dean's conference room and ZOOM

PRESENT: Nora Heist (chair), Kevin Anderson, Amanda Harvey, Stacey Knight-Davis, Stephen Lucas, Jeannie Ludlow, Chigozirim Sodeke, Peter Wiles

GUEST: Jim Davis, chair, Geology/Geography

EXCUSED: Jeff Snell, Tim Taylor

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 2:33 pm

I. Heist: welcome to Davis and short introduction to our process

II. presentation by Dr. Jim Davis, Chair of Geol/Geog

Gen ed sections are taught concurrently (honors and non-honors), 60-person lecture, divided into two 30-person labs

department has been thinking about offering the appropriate number of sections

course proposals are a bit old; faculty have changed even though core knowledge is pretty much the same

III. general questions from the committee

A. what is your vision of general education from the perspective of Geol/Geog?

B: central values related to the courses?

C. what sort of support would you need from campus to improve your general education offerings?

D. specific questions from committee members

q: do you know why there is a non-major preference for weather/climate?

q: pre-post test results: do you talk about the results?

q: what do you do if you see the results go backwards?

q: re: dated course proposals--are course proposals something faculty members revisit/refer to?

q: vision for recruiting in gen ed courses for your major?

q: how engaged are the students who take the courses only because they fit the schedule and fulfill a requirement

q: how do your courses engage/talk about critical thinking?

q: how did you get to the gen ed assessment system?

q: SWOT?

IV. committee debrief

immediate reflections from this presentation, applicable across departments? pre-test/post-test is a great idea; so is training for departmental and 1st year advisors to go over how to talk to students about the gen ed learning goals and how courses fulfill those catalog descriptions are written for CAA (HLC), but maybe a sexier guide to gen ed for students would be helpful

gen ed has a marketing problem

constraints of our size and siloing; how do we translate info among different parts of campus? what does it mean that the presenter was concerned about "stepping on others' toes"? how can we express or project collaborative perspectives about gen ed? maybe our committee can begin to push back against the neoliberal university infrastructure, with its focus on "butts in seats"

does EIU have a sense of the mission of gen ed (beyond "getting the 40 hours"?), a rationale for gen ed? campus needs more cohesion around these questions

is the big issue really marketing? what are some ideas we could try in the fall? don't forget to utilize our academic advisors, too

what about a gen ed winter break course? we have a semester (e.g., 202445)

V. discussion of Math report draft

all committee members have editing capabilities; please turn on "reviewing" before making changes

VI. approval of minutes of previous meetings:

3/11/24

Anderson moved/Sodeke seconded

3/25/24

Lucas moved/Harvey seconded

VII. future tasks:

set a future regular meeting time? maybe a doodle poll based on our fall teaching schedules elections for next year?

filling Glaros position: Rashmi Thapaliya in Comm Studies

meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

next meeting:

Mon., 4/15/24, 2:30 pm, with Communication Studies and Chemistry