

General Education Council

April 11, 2018
MU, PKP Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rich Sleezer, Carol Lucy, Andy Houchins, Jo Kord, Quang Shi, Kathy Landwehr, Steve Lovett, Chris Stone, Kim Massoth, Shawna Shane, Basil Kessler, Andy Houchins, and Amy Oelschlager

ABSENT: Klassee Crawford, Sheila Markowitz, Maddison Thompson, Dave McKenzie and Joan Brewer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for March 28, 2018 were approved

QUICK LEADERSHIP CLASS UPDATE: Interest still remains to keep the courses available but nothing has been resolved.

ALTERNATIVE/MODIFIED GENERAL EDUCATION: Council discussed the options that had been presented during the last meeting with regard to proposed changes to the General Education Program and the need to submit a bill to Faculty Senate reducing the minimum number of credit hours required for a general education program. Currently the minimum is 48 credit hours and the initial discussion centered around four options discussed in the previous two General Education Council meetings. 1) Simply adopting a version of the 45 credit hour transfer articulation agreement for community college completers; 2) A 45 credit hour option presented at the last General Education Council Meeting that maintains our current core with 30 credit hours of other coursework to ensure breadth in three sub-categories: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural and Physical Sciences; 3) 44 Credit Hour option similar to number 2 with 15 core and 29 credit hours of breadth and 4) 42 Credit Hour option similar to number 2 with 15 core and 27 credit hours of breadth.

There seemed to be general agreement that: 1) The request should be a significant reduction (>3 Hours) but not so large as to alienate faculty. 2) Regardless of the final number of credit hours requested, the next order of business is to write and present a bill to Faculty Senate next Fall asking for a reduction in the minimum number of credit hours to be included in our General Education Program. 3) Stone indicated that the Bill is necessary whether we are asking for a reduction in the current program or if we are intending to roll out an experimental general education program.

Kord asked for some clarification about the justification for a reduction in credit hours for General Education. Sleezer provided a justification based on his work over the last 6 months working with various departments across campus to reduce their required number of credit hours from 120 to 124 hours.

Strategies to ensure that the Bill would meet a favorable end were discussed. Lovett suggested that student input should be solicited. He also encouraged the Council to shepherd the bill through the process. He suggested that not just the Associate Dean be present when the Bill was presented and discussed in Faculty Senate committee meetings and beyond. He suggested that two members of the Council agree to attend all Senate meetings involving the Bill and provide information about discussions of the reduction that have been had in the General Education Council meetings.

Carol Lucy made a motion that the Council work toward a reduction in the required number of credit hours in the General Education Program from 48 to 42. Houchins seconded the motion. After a brief discussion a vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Sleezer agreed to write a draft justification for the reduction in credit hours from 48 to 42.

Next meeting the Council will review the justification and start work on a Faculty Senate Bill.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00pm