

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**March 27, 2020**  
**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Zoom chat**

**Members present:** Steve Contakes (Professor of Chemistry and Committee Chair), Paul Delaney (Professor of English), Michelle Hardley (Registrar), Michelle Hughes (Chair and Professor of Education), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Co-Director of the Westmont Library), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness)

**Absent:**

**I. Prayer** – Steve Contakes

**II. The minutes from March 6, 2020 were approved.**

**III. MA-002 – The Mathematics of Music - Add to Common Inquiries: Reasoning Abstractly and Common Skills – Quantitative and Analytical Reasoning**

The committee discussed the course in relation to the two proposed GE areas.

The course was approved for offering effective Fall 2020.

**IV. RIL Syllabus Audit**

There is still one syllabus that needs to be fully reviewed for Kya Mangrum but it was received just prior to this week's meeting.

In discussing the remaining syllabi there were some concerns on the course learning outcomes in ENG-060 and that course description in the syllabus is not inviting to non-English majors. One solution for the learning outcomes would be to identify the connections between the outcomes and the specific course assignments. As this course is taught by almost everyone in the department, the concern on the inviting nature of the course may need to be addressed at the departmental level.

Steve will follow up with a short email to the ENG-060 professor. In the communication he will note that the syllabi in this GE area were well done and mention the specific items of concern with the ENG-060 course.

**V. First Year Experience Proposal Report**

Tatiana had a brief conversation with Jana and Mark regarding this proposal. At this point, with the developing pandemic and unknown financial resources

available for next semester, there is a feeling that this may not be the best time to move forward. Marianne Robins was also reconsidering the decision to have all first-year students in her section, so there may need to be some additional work on the structure of the program.

The GE Committee voted to table conversation until the fall for implementation in either the spring 2021 or fall 2021 semester. Financial resources should be assured prior to continuing the discussion on this proposal.

**VI. PEA Courses Proposal for the Senate**

The conversation on changes to the PEA GE requirement was originally based on the data from the senior experience survey and follow up with the department chair Gregg Afman. At the time, Gregg noted that there may be some willingness within the department to reduce the PEA requirement. He personally would be ok with reducing it from 4 units to 3. The GE Committee continued with discussions on the possibility of reducing the PEA requirement from 4 units to 2. As Gregg checked with the rest of the Kinesiology department, he learned that the department is against any change to the requirement.

Tatiana indicated that Mark would support a reduction.

The GE Committee determined that with the evolving pandemic it was unlikely that a proposal could be developed and passed at this point in the year. This topic will be tabled until the fall. When it is discussed again, there needs to be a clear sense on what is driving the discussion. Would a proposal be based on the financial considerations, or streamlining the GE or a request from Senate to look into a reduction?

**VII. Other Business**

Tatiana noted that Senate has been discussing issues of Race and Ethnicity within the GE over the last few Senate meetings. One of the items they noted was a lack of an identified space where issues of race and ethnicity are covered in the GE curriculum. Tatiana will check with Mark to see if it would be appropriate to have a GE Committee member involved when in the conversations focus more on the GE.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Hardley