

University General Education Committee Meeting Agenda  
August 29, 2018  
4:00  
HCC 310

Present: Nicole Crowder (CAS; chair), Brooke DiLauro (CAS), Lance Gentry (CoB), Chris Musina (CAS; secretary), Kelly Perkins (CAS), Farhang Rouhani (CAS), Marie Sheckels (CoE), Rita Dunston (ex officio), John Morello (ex officio), Tim O'Donnell (ex officio), Brian Ogle (ex officio), Debra Schleef (ex officio),

Meeting Began: 4:05pm

1. Minutes from April 9, 2018 – approved as submitted.

noted - While there will be no new Gen Ed course proposals accepted, there is a special exception for a course from Historic Pres. which is no longer Gen Ed, but students signed up thinking it was. Historic Pres. will come forward with a proposal to add course to Gen Ed.

2. Brainstorming session

The committee discussed ideas for how to approach the Gen Ed revision/edit/rebrand, thinking broadly before getting into the details. The committee started with the guidelines set forth under the President and Provost, looking to the University's mission statement and the President's welcome address. It was noted that we are not under charge of the provost to address the Gen Eds, but are undertaking this as a 10 yr review. We want to be sure they get the experiences we think they should have and that we state in our mission statement and get what they need to be prepared for the world as they leave UMW.

In most of these things we are strong, but there could be some refining. We need to also consider the "Passport" from community colleges. Some of what need to happen is more of a repackaging and highlighting to fit within current Core Curricular discourse. It was noted that: Community/ Civic Engagement, High Impact Learning Practices, Creation and Exploration of Knowledge. - we do those well.

It was also noted that our Gen Ed requirements look artificially high because we include the WI and SI under that heading. Facts arose - Most students do their SI's later in their collegiate career. Most students have their WI done by senior year, only approx. 30% have their SI.

3. Possible additional topics/questions to discuss:

The committee discussed a range of topics, including how the Gen Eds work for each college, what are the reasons for adapting the current system, and for leaving it in place. There was discussion on how the Gen Eds work with the different degrees as well (BA, BS, BLS, etc.). The committee discussed how students work with the requirements currently, how we might be able to make it seem less daunting, and give students more options, or the perception of more options. We talked about the 300+ level courses that fall under Gen Eds, and it was noted that the Registrar does not often see 300 level courses used to satisfy a Gen Ed. The committee looked at

comparative data from other Virginia schools and had a conversation about how we might consider the best practices and models from other schools and which align best with UMW's mission.

*Next meeting:*

September 12<sup>th</sup> – Normal business of committee; FSEM data; Community Engagement conversation (representative will attend)

Meeting adjourned: 5:55pm