

University General Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2018  
4 p.m.  
HCC 310

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

Meeting Began: 4:04pm

Not Present: Lance Gentry (CoB)

1. Minutes from September 12, 2018

Approved as amended

2. Discussion of FSEM data in regard to gen ed review

Guest: Anand Rao

Anand Rao shared documents and data in regard to FSEM assessment as a part of the QEP. This information is available upon request. Some of the key points were about the successes of FSEMs in better equipping students for upper level work. There was discussion of PRCA-24 Comparison: approx. 44% students feel uncomfortable in one or more of these categories - Class Discussion, Meeting, Interpersonal, Public Speaking. It was suggested this is something to consider when we reevaluate gen eds. Students who come in highly apprehensive can learn how to manage their apprehension; this underscores the importance of the intervention.

Anand Rao spoke about the FSEM modules, in their current form, including notes on student responsiveness and completion of said modules. It was also noted that there is a lot packed into the FSEM already, coupled with an increasing need for intervention and advising in the first semester. As such, there should be ways to further support the faculty who teach it. We also really have 2 gen ed programs - one for first year, first time college students and one for transfer students. We should consider something for a better transition to Mary Washington for transfers.

3. Discussion of Retention – Tim O'Donnell

Tim O'Donnell discussed retention rates and data with the committee.

UMW Retention data was “home-brewed”, not backed by IR, one year's worth of perspective. We will double this capacity this December.

There was discussion of why retention matters and information on the retention rate historically - mid 80%. This rate started dropping 5-6 years ago, but has experienced an uptick, bottoming out in 2013. He shared data on retention across specific groups, where students go when they leave UMW, and the reasons they leave.

It was suggested we consider schools that reevaluate gen eds with retention in mind.

We should consider existing roadblocks, the effect of sequential gen ed courses on student success, the effectiveness of our communication to students, what is good for students regarding gen ed education outcomes.

Questions to consider:

A clearer set of what our goals for the general education program are.

Some idea of the desired size of our gen ed requirements: different areas, options, choice. Do we envision gen ed as lower level or upper or both?

Do they run up to the major / act as a recruiting ground, or are they a separate entity? Regarding our idea of a general education - is it courses only, proficiency, or a mixture of both?

#### 4. Discussion of how to solicit/incorporate feedback

The committee discussed ways to solicit and incorporate feedback from the University faculty regarding our work. This resulted in a survey to be sent to faculty.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:56pm

Next meeting: October 3, 2018, 4pm HCC 310