

University General Education Committee
Minutes
February 1, 2023
DuPont 324, and via Zoom

1. Call to order 4:01pm.

2. Present: Marc Williams (CAS - Chair), Leslie Martin (CAS - Secretary), Kelly Perkins (CAS), Michael Reno (CAS), Robert Rycroft (CAS), Debra Schleeef (ex-officio), Brian Ogle (ex-officio)

3. Request for change in committee membership.

Melissa Yakabouski (Dean of Admissions) has asked to exit committee, and this change is in process. Question about whether ex-officio committee composition is something that must be vetted through faculty governance, since it is described in Faculty Handbook. Chair will explore what the process should be to make this change.

4. Review of course proposals.

A. Diverse and Global Perspectives

- i. MDFL 201, Antisemitism from Antiquity to Today: **The committee approved this proposal as submitted.** (SLOs 1, 2, 4)
- ii. MDFL 201, Women of the Arab World: The committee requests revisions to this proposal to clarify how SLOs will be accomplished. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
- iii. MKTG 370, Ecotourism: The committee requests revisions to this proposal to clarify how SLOs will be accomplished. (SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4.)

B. After Mary Washington

- i. CHEM 399/PHYS 399, Science Careers After UMW: **The committee approved this proposal as submitted.**

5. Review of the Arts and Literature, Humanities, and Digital Intensive assessment reports from Debra Schleeef.

i. HUMANITIES:

Assessment results showed significant variation across disciplines, and even within disciplines. Departments/faculty encouraged to share assignments, rubrics to increase inter-rater reliability.

Benchmark needed for this category.

ii. ARTS & LITERATURE:

As discussed in the report, there is some variation between disciplines in the scores, as well as between faculty in the same discipline. This could be a result of differences in how individual faculty assess their own students on these SLOs. She recommends departments try to achieve stronger interrater reliability, to control for that possible explanation.

This Gen Ed category needs to have a benchmark set.

iii. DIGITAL INTENSIVE:

Some problems with both the rubric, and way the rubric is applied. DI committee updated rubric, and explored how to work with instructors on: talking to students about learning outcomes, creating assignments well-tailored to measuring these outcomes.

iv. Some general discussion on how to develop a model for responding to gen ed assessment results. Debra will draft some suggestions for how we could approach this feedback/response process and it will be put on agenda for next meeting.

6. Discussion of benchmark setting.

We have benchmark for NS (70% scoring 3 or 4); several other Gen Ed categories have set benchmarks in SCHEV core competency reports. (QR, DI, WI, SI, CE)

Debra proposes 70% benchmark; consistent with what many schools do, and consistent with some of things we do already. We examined the benchmarks from other institutions that Debra provided to us.

Motion - Recommend setting benchmark for AMW, DGP, BTC, Humanities and Arts/Literature categories such that 70% of students earning at least 3 or 4. (Proficient or high proficient; meets/exceeds, etc.) for each of the learning outcomes.

Motion unanimously passed.

7. Discussion about approving topics classes for Gen Eds (ex was MDFL 201). Typically, we don't do this, because if it is special and not recurring - don't want to put it on the catalog and have students expect it. However, there are many reasons that faculty may seek Gen Ed designations for a topics class: like in a department that assumes all new classes must be taught as special topics first. The key concern is not about the special topics designation per se, but rather about GE designated courses being offered regularly.

Adjournment 5:01pm.

Next meeting: March 8, 2023