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General Studies

2-1-2024

February 2024 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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General Studies Council
February 1, 2024
3:30 PM, Warner Conference Room
****Formerly the Chancellor's Dining Room, second floor of NSU****
**** Approved via Email ****

Present: Greg Benson, Derek Boeckner, Jonathan Dettman, Steve Hall, Megan Hartman, Kate Heelan, Suzanne Maughan Spencer, Tami Moore, Rochelle Reeves, Whitney Schneider-Cline, Mallory Wetherell, Melissa Wuellner, Greg Brown, Mark Ellis, Jessie Bialas, Joel Cardenas, John Gibbs, Lisa Neal, Beth Hinga, Jacob Howe

Guests: Kim Carlson, Dean Jares

Absent: Noel Palmer

I. Call to order:

- Approve Agenda: moved Wuellner/Maughan Spencer moved to approve the agenda.
 - Agenda discussion:
 - Boeckner stated he is uncomfortable approving the biology courses and not theatre. Dean Ellis stated the SVCAA made the decision to put the theatre course on hold, but it will be on the agenda for the March meeting. Neal stated the theatre course would need to be approved by every level by April. She also stated the theatre course has not been moved through the full workflow and she cannot guarantee the course could be approved for Fall 2024.
 - Hartman asked why the “Recommend removal of a course from GS program for failure to comply with assessment or failure to acceptably meet learning outcomes” should be removed from the agenda. Brown stated he did not think it was necessary to have it in the governance document. Dettman asked why the governance document is not up to date for the changes that have been made to date. Dean Ellis stated that once the committee has done its work then the governance document will be sent to the SCVAA with all the changes.
 - **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**
 - Minutes from December 7, 2023 meeting (approved via email)

II. Business

- Governance Document Revisions
 - GSC Composition - out for campus comments, will be reviewed during the March 2024 meeting for possible campus vote.

- Dettman/Hartman moved to make the following change in the governance document (Page 6: VI. Program Changes, B. Procedures for approving major changes, 3. If the proposal for a major change is approved by vote of GSC, the proposal will be sent to the relevant College committees to conduct an election within two weeks). *“The relevant College committees will conduct an election by their eligible faculty. Eligibility to vote is determined by the constitution of each College. An affirmative vote **will be considered to be** by a simple majority of eligible voting faculty in each of the three Colleges. **The results of the vote and for recommendation of the proposed** major change to the GS program **will be sent** to the Chief Academic Officer, who makes the final decision.”* **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**

- Wetherell/Benson moved to approve the agenda prior to the meeting via email by Tuesday the week of the GSC meeting. **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**

- Other revisions to Governance Document
 - 8 days before GSC meeting to submit a course proposal or other agenda items.
 - Brown stated that he would like items for the agenda to him by 8 days prior as the agenda is due 7 days prior.
 - i. Reeves/Wuellner moved to require agenda items be submitted to the GS Director eight days before the GSC meeting. **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**

 - ~~Recommend removal of a course from GS program for failure to comply with assessment or failure to acceptably meet learning outcomes~~ I want to delete this request
 - Wuellner stated she does not think this item should be removed from the agenda. Brown stated that he does not think a course has ever been removed from General Studies and does not think it is necessary to have it in the governance document. Wuellner stated that even though this has not been dealt with it does not mean it will never happen and that it is better to have it in the document now in case it is needed in the future. Hall stated another issue is whether it is the course or the instructor that is the issue. Reeves stated it would be better to wait until the assessment is done first.
 - Hartman/Wuellner moved to move the discussion of course removal to the discussion of the assessment portion of the agenda. **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**

- Review of Course Proposals
 - THEA Classes (pending further information)
 - Review of BIOL 311 for LOPER 10
 - Reeves/Moore moved to send BIOL 311 for inclusion in LOPER 10 to campus for comment. **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**
- Possible Revisions to LOPER 1
 - Benson stated that LOPER 1 should be treated as if every student was undecided. Heelan suggested having the students choose one credit from each college for LOPER 1 and not have the course team taught. She stated that the Council also needs to get help from Career Services as well. Benson asked if it was possible to have the students take LNSK 103 instead, as the course seems more valuable for students. Heelan stated there is value in LOPER 1. Dettman stated LOPER 1 shows the students different disciplines and he sees the benefit of tenured faculty teaching the course. Heelan stated she agrees with the interdisciplinary of LOPER 1, but it should be college based.
 - Heelan suggested having all LOPER 1's during the same time, which would allow the students to choose a course from each college. Neal explained that if the students are choosing courses that are different topics, then it will not work. Neal also stated that if the course is 1 credit hour and 5 weeks long the refund opportunity is different due to the course being shorter. Gibbs stated the one credit hour/5-week course will make things more difficult for the students, which is not the point of LOPR 126.
 - Wuellner suggested having an ad-hoc committee research what other universities are doing for their first-year seminar and then bring that information back to the Council.
 - Schneider-Cline stated it would be nice to know what the students think about the current LOPR 126. Brown stated he did a focus group with students a couple years ago and many students stated that LOPR 126 was like taking 3 separate classes. Wuellner stated research regarding first-year seminars is about retaining students as some students are more prepared for college than others. Boeckner asked if LOPR 126 is working then why is the Council looking to make a change. Heelan stated the current structure is very logistically difficult. Dean Jares stated that the course is very restrictive as the faculty members each must teach three sections. He suggested having just one faculty member teach the course.
 - Wuellner/Dettman moved to create an ad-hoc committee to consist of one representative from each college, the library, the Registrar's Office, Academic Advising and Career Development, and the student representative to come up with concrete suggestions for LOPR 126 (Ad-

Hoc Committee: Hall, Dettman, Heelan, Reeves, Cardenas, Gibbs, and Howe). **Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried**

The following agenda items were not discussed due to time constraints.

- *Proposed LOPER Category Assessment Schedule*
 - *Assessment data will still be collected on every LOPERS GS class every semester.*
 - *It is proposed that LOPERS General Studies classes be given an in-depth evaluation on a 3-year rotating basis. This evaluation will include a review of the course syllabus to ensure that it meets GS requirements. Also, the numbers from the quantitative assessment will be reviewed for the courses in the LOPER category at this time.*
 - *LOPER 2 and LOPER 3 – Fall 2025 (5 classes, multiple sections)*
 - *LOPER 4 and LOPER 5 Spring 2026 (25 classes, some multiple sections)*
 - *LOPER 6 Fall 2026 (43 classes, some multiple sections)*
 - *LOPER 7 and LOPER 8 Spring 2027 (46 classes, some multiple sections)*
 - *LOPER 9 and LOPER 11 Fall 2027 (18 classes, some multiple sections) + LOPER 1 (pending possible changes)*
 - *LOPER 10 Spring 2028 (43 classes, some multiple sections)*
 - *GSC Members will be divided into teams of 2 or 3 and the courses to be reviewed will be evenly divided between the teams.*

III. Adjournment: Wuellner/Reeves moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 5:15 pm.

Next meeting: March 7, 2024 @ 3:30 pm- Warner Conference Room

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Addendum to the Approved Minutes

During the February 1, 2024, GSC meeting, a question arose regarding when the voting policy requiring a simple majority +1 was approved by SCVAA Shaffer and when this policy went into effect. Brown said he would check with SVCAA Shaffer and report back to the council.

As the council revised the wording to Page 6: VI. Program Changes, B. Procedures for approving major changes, 3, Brown asked if this change needed to go out for campus comment, and it was suggested to ask SVCAA Shaffer. Brown said he would check with SVCAA Shaffer and report back to the council.

On February 5, Brown reported back to the council that SVCAA Shaffer has approved the voting policy we are currently using, and this approval was effective starting the time it was approved by the GSC. Also, SVCAA has approved the wording to the policy for major changes as shown in the minutes and has stated that this does not need to go out for campus comments.