

MINUTES
General Education Committee
October 6, 2023
3:15-4:45pm
Montecito Room

Members present: Theresa Covich (Instructional Services Librarian), Steve Hodson (Professor of Music), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Carmel Saad (Professor of Psychology), Felicia Song (Professor of Sociology & Anthropology), Tara Sturges (Assistant Registrar, Recording Secretary)

Absent: Michelle Hardley (Registrar)

Guest: Sarah Skripsky (Professor of English)

I. Prayer - Steve Hodson

II. Minutes of September 8 with September 23 notes

The committee members unanimously approved the minutes with minor updates to the PEA requirements wording and updated spelling of Jeff Shaffer's last name.

III. The GE Annual Assessment Report (on the Google Drive)

After review, the committee decided that Tatiana will submit the GE Annual Assessment Report to the PRC committee.

IV. NUR-280 syllabus; NUR-280 submission form

The committee did not yet approve this course. Steve Hodson will reach out to Charlie Farhadian, copying Carol Velas, to request an annotated syllabus, per new course submission guidelines, wherein it will be noted how each criterion of the Thinking Globally requirement is met.

V. RS-116 Syllabus; RS-116 Submission Form; RS-116 Rationale

The committee did not yet approve this course and noted that the conversation regarding the approval of RS-116 (The Apocalypse) to fulfill the RIL requirement is not resolved among the English department faculty (confirmed by Sarah Skripsky). Committee members mentioned caution is setting precedence for approving an RS course to fulfill the RIL requirement. Tatiana noted the prudence of approaching John Blondell (instructor

of TA-001), Mitchell Thomas (Theatre Arts department chair), and Dinora Cardoso (Modern Foreign Languages department chair) for their feedback concerning this request.

Action: Steve Hodson will approach these department chairs to ask whether they object to certifying RS-116 for the OCP fall 2024 semester.

VI. RS-155 Syllabus; RS -155 Application TG tags; Regional Study Guide

The committee did not yet approve this course. Steve will send a message to Sandy to request an annotated syllabus, per the new course submission guideline to note how each criterion of the Thinking Globally and Thinking Historically requirements are met.

VII. Understanding Society and Working Artistically Syllabi Audits

The committee reviewed the document prepared by Tatiana listing syllabus assignments.

Action: All members of the GE Committee will review seven syllabi between the Working Artistically and Understanding Society syllabi with a due date of November 3, 2022, for completion.

VIII. Writing-Speech Intensive Courses in the GE: Sarah Skripsky

A. ENG-002 Discussion: Sarah Skripsky presented research indicating that Westmont students who complete ENG-002 on campus demonstrate retention of SLOs over time. Sarah discussed how these findings support having ENG-002 as a prerequisite or corequisite for all other WSI courses and suggested that ENG-002 be specifically sequenced in students' schedules to allow for this possibility. It was mentioned that all students might be required to take ENG-002 at Westmont, although there is currently not enough staff to offer this to all incoming students. After discussing how students currently fulfill the WLA requirement outside of taking ENG-002 at Westmont (community college courses, AP Language), Tara mentioned that AP Language currently fulfills ENG-002, and asked whether the English department is considering changing this equivalency. Sarah noted that the department would need to discuss this possibility. Sarah also shared how the caps on ENG-002 courses should be lower to offset faculty labor and offer high-quality instruction to individual students including feedback from the faculty level. It was mentioned that the current caps are too high, requiring much labor from faculty.

B. Decoupling the Writing and Speech requirements: Sarah discussed the suggestion to decouple the Writing requirement from the Speech requirement, noting that the

Speech requirement can be completed in major capstone courses. It was acknowledged that removing COM-015 as fulfilling a WSI requirement would be a loss to the Communication Studies department, which uses this course as one of their recruitment tools. Tara mentioned that a percentage of transfer students use this course to fulfill a WSI requirement and may be impacted by the removal. Further investigation of the issue is required before bringing it to the Senate.

- C. In discussing the WSI requirements, it was noted that some departments' WSI courses have varying course caps, resulting in labor differences and difficulty in grading for those WSI courses with higher caps. Those in the latter group sometimes ask English faculty to assist with grading. Carmel Saad suggested that a proposal be submitted to the provost, requesting funding for TAs or a writing coordinator for departments offering WSI courses with higher caps, especially if Faculty Senate approves requiring ENG-002 as a prerequisite for other WSI courses. Theresa Covich asked whether the WSI courses need a syllabus analysis to make sure the WSI-approved courses fulfill the associated criteria. Tatiana mentioned the possibility of holding a workshop to explain the WI criteria and support faculty as they evaluate their syllabi/courses per these criteria.

IX. Other Business

- A. Per Steve Hodson, and if approved, members of the Serving Society ad hoc committee will be as follows: Scott Lisea, Jeff Shaffer, Rick Ostrander, Steve Hodson, Tara Sturges, Jim Wright, Eden Lawson, Daniel Johnsen, Angela D'Amour, Phoebe Lu, Taylor Mache, Kayla Petersen, Colin Brown, Sydney Azzarello, Emma Hammond.

- B. Concerning the “i.e.” versus “e.g.” wording on the GE Combined document:

Action: Tatiana and Steve will bring this issue to the Academic Senate for clarification and guidance. They will consult with the Senate on whether it is appropriate to remove gatekeepers from the Common Inquiries areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Sturges