University-wide General Education Committee (UWGEC)
Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2019

Voting Members Present: Kate Alexander, Adam Daly, Kyle DiRoberto, Amy Fountain, Robert Groves, Bayo Ijagbemi, Kim Jones, Steve Kortenkamp, Ted Laetsch, Jessica Maerz, Maha Nassar, Matt Ostermeyer

Ex-Officio Members Present: Abbie Sorg, Elaine Marchello

Guest: Marie Teemant

Voting Members Absent: Bennett Adamson, Joseph Agosttini, Susan Miller-Cochran, Jeremiah Paschke-Wood, Tanya Quist, Jennifer Ravia, Mark Stegeman

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 18—Amy Fountain

As a permanent Chair has not been confirmed yet and Temporary Chair Susan Miller-Cochran could not attend, Amy Fountain served as Acting Chair for this meeting. Ted Laetsch moved to approve the minutes for September 18th as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kyle DiRoberto, and passed with 9 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

II. Proposal to amend the General Education Teaching Policy—Marie Teemant

A previous proposal to amend the General Education Teaching Policy was approved by UWGEC in February 2018, but tabled by the Undergraduate Council Curriculum & Policies Subcommittee in March 2018. The previous proposal would have allowed departments to assign GATs as primary instructors for both Tier I and Tier II courses in all semesters. The current proposal would allow departments to assign GATs as primary instructors for Tier II courses in all semesters given that the GAT meets proper preparation and supervision as mandated by the Graduate College, and the duties in the appointment are directly aligned with the education and professionalization of the student; departments would continue to be able to assign GATs as primary instructors for Tier I courses during Summer and Winter semesters as in current policy.

Discussion
- This update is critical for international graduate students who don’t have the option of teaching at another institution the way students from the U.S. do.
- The Summer/Winter exception for General Education teaching was made soon after the current General Education curriculum was instituted, because departments had difficulty finding faculty to teach all their courses during those semesters.
- A committee member asked if there was another way for graduate students to gain teaching experience, possibly by listing them as co-instructors with faculty members. This is currently done by some departments, but to maintain consistency across the institution, this update to the policy would be preferable.
- A committee member asked if it would be beneficial to include a cap for the Tier II courses taught by graduate students. Although members agreed that departments should not overburden the graduate student instructors, it would be difficult to determine one size of class that would be equitable. Departments should have flexibility to determine appropriate class size depending on the discipline and the nature of the course. It was noted that Tier II courses are often smaller than Tier I courses to begin with.
Kim Jones motioned to approve the proposal, and Jessica Maerz seconded this. The motion was unanimously approved with 12 votes in favor. The proposal will be sent to the Curriculum & Policies Subcommittee to be reviewed at the October 22 meeting.

III. Proposal to amend UWGEC Bylaws regarding Subcommittees— Kim Jones

Kim Jones presented a drafted update to the bylaws to make it possible to continue assigning courses to pairs of committee members for review prior to meetings, rather than requiring larger subcommittees to review groups of courses for each meeting. Updates were made to the Members’ Responsibilities section and the Subcommittees section of the bylaws to this effect.

Rob Groves motioned to approve the proposal, and Kate Alexander seconded this. The motion was unanimously approved with 12 votes in favor.

IV. Course Proposals

1) **ANTH 205, Anthropology of American Popular Entertainment**— new for Tier 2 Arts. Committee members had concerns about whether the course content and perspective are appropriate for an Arts course rather than Individuals and Societies, and were unsure whether the department wanted to designate the course for Diversity Emphasis as well as Tier 2 Arts. Members also noted issues with the course mechanics- a clearer class schedule with readings and assignments is needed, as well as more detailed grading information to confirm that 40% of grade points will be complete by the 8th week of class.

Kim Jones made a motion to table ANTH 205 and request more information and an updated syllabus as noted above. Kate Alexander seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 12 votes in favor.

2) **CALS 197C, Professionalism in STEM Workshop Course CALS ASEMS**— new for Success Course designation. No concerns were raised about the course content, designation, or mechanics. The committee noted that the assignments and schedule are appropriate for Success designation.

Amy Fountain made a motion to approve CALS 197C for Success Course designation. Rob Groves seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 12 votes in favor.

3) **MATH 119A, Mathematics of Biological Systems: a calculus based approach**— new for Foundations Math Moderate Strand designation. No concerns were raised about course content or designation. Committee members noted that the course description is very brief, and recommended that more detail be included so students have a better idea of the course content and purpose before enrolling.

Kim Jones made a motion to approve MATH 119A for Foundations Math Moderate Strand. Kyle DiRoberto seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 12 votes in favor.

4) **MSE 220, Make It… Green! 3-D Printing and the Environment**— new for T2 Natural Sciences. Revised syllabus based on feedback from September meeting. No concerns were raised about course content, designation, or mechanics. Committee members agreed that the updates made to the syllabus based on previous feedback were sufficient for approval.
Adam Daly made a motion to approve MSE 220 for Tier 2 Natural Sciences. Kim Jones seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 12 votes in favor.

5) MUS 150D1, The Arts, Economics, and Entrepreneurship—new for Tier 1 Individuals & Societies and Success Course designation. Committee members had concerns about whether the course content and perspective are appropriate for an Individuals and Societies course, and which INDV subcategory the department meant to select since 150D isn’t a set subcategory. Members also noted that Tier 1 courses should not also be designated as Success Courses. Members also noted issues with the course mechanics—more consistent details about readings and assignments are needed on the class schedule, assignments should be more clearly defined on the syllabus, and the syllabus should include a statement on Honors accommodations.

Amy Fountain made a motion to table MUS 150D1 and request more information and an updated syllabus as noted above. Maha Nassar seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 12 votes in favor.

Amy adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Abbie Sorg, 10/18/19