University-wide General Education Committee (UWGEC)
Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2019

Voting Members Present: Kate Alexander, Chair Joan Curry, Adam Daly, Kyle DiRoberto, Amy Fountain, Bayo Ijagbemi, Kim Jones, Steve Kortenkamp, Ted Laetsch, Susan Miller-Cochran, Maha Nassar, Matt Ostermeyer, Jeremiah Paschke-Wood, Tanya Quist, Jennifer Ravia

Ex-Officio Members Present: Abbie Sorg, Elaine Marchello

Guest: Robert Miller

Voting Members Absent: Bennett Adamson, Joseph Agosttini, Robert Groves, Jessica Maerz, Mark Stegeman

Chair Joan Curry called the meeting to order at 3:19 PM with a quorum of 13 voting members. Two additional members arrived after approval of the minutes. Kim Jones voted as proxy for Rob Groves.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 16—Joan Curry

Ted Laetsch moved to approve the minutes for October 16th as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kim Jones, and passed with 13 votes in favor.

II. 2nd Language Requirement Waiver for Bachelor of Architecture—Robert Miller

The Bachelor of Architecture is currently a 178-unit, 5-year professionally accredited degree. The department has been working to optimize the degree as they lower the number of required units to 165. They have updated their required courses, changed requirements for courses outside of their college such as math and physics, and are hoping to waive the standard requirement for 2nd language proficiency. This request would be in line with similar programs at other institutions; most Architecture degrees do not require a 2nd language.

Discussion
- The proposal documentation doesn’t seem to be in line with the general education requirements at the UA- the number of units don’t align. Robert Miller will look into that discrepancy and send updated information to explain this more fully.
- Are there any other adjustments that could be made instead of removing the 2nd language requirement? The department has already removed or altered as much as they can of their other requirements and their courses. This would be one of many changes they’ve made to their program.
- Would this change replace the 2nd language requirement with digital competence? No, digital competence is already included in the major and would not be seen as a replacement of language.
- Is there any other requirement for diversity in this major? Waiving the 2nd language requirement would be more palatable knowing that students are still receiving coursework that broadens their horizons in this way. Yes, Diversity Emphasis is still a requirement as part of General Education; these are often satisfied by the Tier 1 or Tier 2 courses students take.
- What does the full Bachelor of Architecture curriculum look like aside from the General Education requirements? Robert Miller will provide updated information to show the full curriculum in context. Concern was expressed about whether the waiver was simply for the convenience of students to provide flexibility in selecting other courses from the department.
- Part of the argument for the 2nd language requirement is that the faculty believe it to be an important part of students’ education, that all students should benefit from, not just that it shouldn’t be replaced by digital competency.
- The College of Engineering has a longstanding exemption from the 2nd language requirement, likely stemming from the fact that their degrees require a high number of units to satisfy their professional accreditation; should Architecture not be considered a similar case since their professional accreditation requires even more units than Engineering?
- Committee members expressed concern about setting a precedent by waiving this requirement. If this is meant to be a university-wide requirement, waivers should not be granted lightly.

The committee tabled the Bachelor of Architecture 2nd Language waiver request to review additional information about the major as noted above.

III. Discussion of 2nd Language Requirement for International Students— Abbie Sorg

The 2nd Language Requirement for International Students (found at https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/second-language-requirement-undergraduate-degrees) is out of alignment with the current admissions requirements for English Proficiency (found at https://admissions.arizona.edu/how-to-apply/international/english-proficiency). Currently there are a number of exams students can use to demonstrate English Proficiency for admissions, but only the TOEFL and IELTS exams can be used to satisfy the 2nd language requirement for international students whose native language isn’t English. A memo explaining the issue and stipulating a temporary fix was sent in June 2018 (found at http://www.advising.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Second%20Language-Temporary%20Measure%206-28-18.pdf). No task force was created based on that memo, so the temporary fix is still in place.

The UWGEC agreed that it would be appropriate for this committee to propose an update to the policy to go through faculty governance. Kim Jones volunteered to bring a drafted proposal for review at an upcoming meeting.

IV. Discussion of New General Education Design— Susan Miller-Cochran

Susan Miller-Cochran has been selected to lead the way on the design of the new General Education curriculum. She is hoping to involve faculty in a meaningful way, and encourages UWGEC members to participate in the process if they can. The timeline is limited, and a plan needs to be put in place by March. Susan plans to put together a task force that is primarily faculty, with student involvement as well. This task force will review reports from previous groups that have made recommendations for Gen Ed, along with faculty focus group data and student survey data. A conceptual framework should be in place by March for Provost Folks to present to ABOR; by the end of the academic year a recommendation for the new program should be in place; by August a communication plan should be ready for the incoming 2021 Freshman to receive (along with similar communication for continuing students).

UWGEC members are encouraged to reach out to Susan if they are interested in participating. A diversity of perspectives is being sought. The intention is to create a General Education program that is uniquely UA, which can honor our geographic and cultural location. Susan will be replaced for the Spring 2020 semester on the UWGEC by Aimee Mapes as the Foundations: English Composition representative.
V. Course Proposals

1) ARB 460, Ethnolinguistic and Religious Diversity in the Arab World—new for 2nd Language, 4th+ Semester designation. No concerns were raised about course content or designation. Committee members noted that the class schedule wasn’t very specific about weekly assignments, but that the instructor planned to make assignments timely based on current events and student interest each semester. Committee members noted it is a great enhancement to the Arabic Bachelor of Arts program.

Kim Jones made a motion to approve ARB 460 for 2nd Language, 4th+ Semester designation. Amy Fountain seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

2) AREC 365, The Food Economy: Efficiencies, Gaps and Policies—new Tier Two Individuals and Societies. No concerns were raised about the course content or designation. A committee member questioned the statement that the course would be 100% lecture, since the course project involves students going to the campus pantry or other locations. Since the project isn’t replacing in-class contact hours, the 100% lecture designation is still appropriate.

Jennifer Ravia made a motion to approve AREC 365 for Tier Two Individuals and Societies. Tanya Quist seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

3) CALS 295C, CALS Research Readiness—new for Success Course designation. No concerns were raised about course content or designation. Committee members noted that this course may be of interest to students seeking STEM careers outside of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Ted Laetsch made a motion to approve CALS 295C for Success Course designation. Amy Fountain seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

4) ENGL 150B2, Civil Rights Rhetorics—modification to an existing Tier One Individuals and Societies course to add Diversity Emphasis designation. No concerns were raised about course content, designation, or mechanics.

Kyle DiRoberto made a motion to approve ENGL 150B2 for Diversity Emphasis. Maha Nassar seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

5) ENGL 347, English with an Accent—modification to an existing Tier Two Individuals and Societies course to add Diversity Emphasis designation. No concerns were raised about course content, designation, or mechanics.

Kim Jones made a motion to approve ENGL 347 for Diversity Emphasis. Kyle DiRoberto seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

6) ITAL 160D1, Food for Thought in Italian Culture—new for Tier One Traditions and Cultures. No concerns were raised about course content, designation, or mechanics. A committee member noted that the syllabus was formatted for a 7.5-week session, and that it would have been helpful to receive a 15-week version, but that all course mechanics had been met.

Kyle DiRoberto made a motion to approve ITAL 160D1 for Tier One Traditions and Cultures. Bayo Ijagbemi seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.
7) **MUS 150C1, The Arts, Economics, and Entrepreneurship**— new for Tier One Individuals and Societies. While the updates made to the mechanics of the course were helpful, the committee had difficulty connecting the course content and perspective to the Tier One Individuals and Societies designation. The course appears to be an appreciation course rather than applying a critical lens to the subject, and lacks relevant social science scholarship. Analytical and theoretical frameworks are missing. Learning outcomes are vague and treat subjective concepts as objective; they are not closely tied to the Individuals and Societies category. The course doesn’t appear to explore the sociopolitical, economic, gendered, and racialized connections to the creation of art and music.

Susan Miller-Cochran made a motion to deny MUS 150C1 for Tier One Individuals and Societies. Kyle DiRoberto seconded this, and the motion passed with 14 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

8) **PAH 201, Applied Humanities Practice**— new for Tier Two Humanities. No concerns were raised about course content, mechanics, or designation.

Amy Fountain made a motion to approve PAH 201 for Tier Two Humanities. Bayo Ijagbemi seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

9) **RSSS 275, The Balkans: Identity in Crisis**— modification for an existing Tier Two Individuals and Societies course. Committee members had no concerns about the changes being requested, but noted inconsistencies in how the News Presentation assignments were labeled throughout the syllabus, and that the revision element needed to be described as a requirement rather than an opportunity. Committee members suggested that Learning Outcomes and Course Description text should be updated to reflect the updated Course Title.

Steve Kortenkamp made a motion to conditionally renew RSSS 275 for Tier Two Individuals and Societies, pending updates as noted above. Amy Fountain seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

10) **SOC 150B2, Sex and Gender**— modification for an existing Tier One Individuals and Societies course. No concerns were raised about course content, mechanics, or designation.

Matt Ostermeyer made a motion to renew SOC 150B2 for Tier One Individuals and Societies. Kate Alexander seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 15 votes in favor.

Joan adjourned the meeting at 4:54 PM.

*Revised as approved, 1/8/20*