University-wide General Education Committee (UWGEC)  
Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2019

**Voting Members Present:** Kate Alexander, Adam Daly, Kyle DiRoberto, Bayo Ijagbemi, Kim Jones, Steve Kortenkamp, Ted Laetsch, Jessica Maerz, Susan Miller-Cochran, Matt Ostermeyer, Jeremiah Paschke-Wood, Tanya Quist, Jennifer Ravia

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Abbie Sorg, Elaine Marchello

**Voting Members Absent:** Bennett Adamson, Joseph Agosttini, Amy Fountain, Robert Groves, Mark Stegeman

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**I. Call to Order and Welcome—Susan Miller-Cochran**

Temporary Chair Susan Miller-Cochran called the meeting to order at 3:20 PM and welcomed new and returning members. A quorum was established with 13 voting members. The Chair of the Faculty is still in the process of confirming a UWGEC Chair for the 2019/2020 year; it is expected that this appointment will be made prior to the October meeting. Meetings this year will begin at 3:15pm, and documents for UWGEC meetings will be stored and accessed through Box. Susan reminded the committee of the charge and mission of the group, as authorized by Faculty Senate.

**II. Request for Waiver of Second Language Requirement for BAS in Cyber Operations— Susan Miller-Cochran**

UA South requested a waiver from the UA Second Language Second Semester Proficiency requirement for students in the Bachelor of Applied Science in Cyber Operations major. The principal reason for the request is that the program is wholly populated by transfer students, and they often exceed the usual 120 units in order to meet the other requirements for the major. A secondary reason for the request is that UA South offers only upper-division courses, and thus cannot provide the first and second semester language courses these students may need to satisfy the requirement.

**Discussion**

- The examples that UA South referred to as programs that have been granted waivers for the Second Language requirement are Engineering and Meteorology. The College of Engineering waiver has been in place since the creation of the current General Education model, and the Meteorology waiver was granted over the objection of the UWGEC a few years ago. These do not appear to be good precedents for this request.
- Other waivers have already been granted for this program, and there is exponential growth in the program at this time. From a quick check in the system, the program had 16 students two years ago, 69 students last year, and 169 students this year.
- The Spanish and Portuguese, French, and German departments all either have online courses set up already or are in the process of preparing them, with more departments planning to offer online language courses in the future. The concern about UA South not being able to offer the courses directly shouldn’t be an issue for students.
- The second language requirement is a proficiency requirement- not all students need to take two courses in order to satisfy the requirement. Many students may be able to demonstrate proficiency through an exam based on previous study.
- Granting a waiver based on the major hitting the 120-unit threshold would increase the likelihood of other majors requesting waivers for that requirement if they are near the 120-unit threshold. This shouldn’t be encouraged.
Kyle DiRoberto motioned to approve the request for a waiver of the second language requirement for the BAS in Cyber Operations, and Jessica Maerz seconded this. The motion was denied with zero votes in favor, ten votes against, and three abstentions.

III. Discussion of UWGEC Subcommittees—Susan Miller-Cochran

Two standing subcommittees, one dedicated to Tier One courses and another to Tier Two courses, are provided for in section 7 of the UWGEC Bylaws. As written, these subcommittees are responsible for reviewing course proposals before each meeting and making recommendations for the committee regarding those proposals. During the 2018/2019 year, the committee worked without the standing subcommittees, and instead assigned course proposals to pairs of committee members to review and make recommendations to the full committee.

Committee members agreed that the process from the 2018/2019 year was preferable as it reduced the total time each member needed to devote to reviewing courses prior to meetings, and thus enabled each member to review their smaller list of courses more carefully. This setup also ensures that there are at least two committee members who have carefully read each proposal and who can give thoughtful feedback about each course.

The consensus is that the committee would like to continue with this setup instead of utilizing two larger subcommittees. Kim Jones volunteered to draft an update to the bylaws to make this possible. She will distribute updated text to the committee for review at the next meeting.

IV. Course Proposals

1) **CALS 197B, Success in STEM Workshop Course**—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.

   Kim Jones made a motion to approve CALS 197B for Success Course designation. Matt Ostermeyer seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

2) **CALS 297B, CALS ASEMS Research Readiness**—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.

   Kim Jones made a motion to approve CALS 297B for Success Course designation. Matt Ostermeyer seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

3) **ENGL 150B2, Civil Rights Rhetorics**—new for Individuals & Societies. No concerns were raised about course content or designation. A question was raised about whether the course could be taught by more than one faculty member, since only one was indicated on the request form. The department will be notified that this should be the case for all General Education courses.

   Susan Miller-Cochran made a motion to approve ENGL 150B2 for Tier 1 Individuals & Societies. Jeremiah Paschke-Wood seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

4) **ENGL 347, English with an Accent**—new for Individuals & Societies. No concerns were raised about course content, designation, or mechanics.
Kyle DiRoberto made a motion to approve ENGL 347 for Tier 2 Individuals & Societies. Bayo Ijagbemi seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

5) FOOD 360, Food Fights—new for Individuals & Societies. The committee noted that the mechanics and structure of the course are appropriate for a Tier Two course, but the content is still difficult to confirm as appropriate for an Individuals & Societies course. The committee agreed that more information on the readings on the syllabus would be needed to confirm the designation.

Matt Ostermeyer made a motion to conditionally approve FOOD 360 for Tier 2 Individuals & Societies, pending revisions to the syllabus as noted above. Jessica Maerz seconded this, and the motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

6) JOUR 305, Science and the News—modification to an existing Individuals & Societies course. No concerns were raised about course content or designation. The committee noted that the class schedule needs to be updated to include information on what readings will be assigned each week (either from the required textbooks or from additional sources).

Kyle DiRoberto made a motion to conditionally renew JOUR 305 for Tier 2 Individuals & Societies, pending revisions to the syllabus as noted above. Bayo Ijagbemi seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

7) JPN 272, Japanese Civilization—modification to an existing course to add Humanities designation. No concerns were raised about the course content or designation. The committee noted that the syllabus needs to be updated to more clearly confirm that at least 10 pages of writing will be assigned, and to more clearly address the Information Literacy Frames.

Susan Miller-Cochran made a motion to conditionally renew JPN 272 for Tier 2 Humanities, pending revisions to the syllabus as noted above. Jeremiah Paschke-Wood seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

8) LAS 316, Sex and Salvation in Latin America—new for Individuals & Societies. No concerns were raised about the course content or designation. The committee noted that the syllabus should be updated to show more clearly the point/percentage value of individual assignments. The current setup makes it difficult to confirm that 40% of the grade will be complete by the 8th week of classes.

Jessica Maerz made a motion to conditionally approve LAS 316 for Tier 2 Individuals & Societies, pending revisions to the syllabus as noted above. Tanya Quist seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

9) MATH 108, Modeling with Algebraic and Trigonometric Functions—modification to designate an existing course as M Strand Mathematics Foundations. No concerns were raised about the course content or designation. This course was developed in consultation with the Psychology and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences departments for use by their students.

Ted Laetsch made a motion to approve MATH 108 for M Strand Mathematics Foundations. Adam Daly seconded this, and the motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

10) MSE 220, Making It Green: 3-D Printing and the Environment—new for Natural Sciences. The syllabus does not adequately address the Information Literacy Frames, and readings are not specified in the class schedule. The committee noted that the course is structured as being team taught by three
instructors, but General Education courses should have continuity of instructor/experience during
the semester.

Kim Jones made a motion to table MSE 220, to request revisions to the syllabus as noted above.
Jennifer Ravia seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

11) PAH 231, Global Video Game Cultures and Their Origins—new for Humanities. No concerns were
raised about course content, designation, or mechanics.

Matt Ostermeyer made a motion to approve PAH 231 for Tier 2 Humanities. Jennifer Ravia
seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

12) PAH 331, Video Game Studies: Critical/Cultural Approaches—new for Humanities. No concerns were
raised about course content, designation, or mechanics. The committee noted that although the
content for this course and the requested PAH 231 is similar, since students only take one Tier Two
Humanities course this should not be an issue for the General Education curriculum.

Matt Ostermeyer made a motion to approve PAH 231 for Tier 2 Humanities. Steve Kortenkamp
seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 13 votes in favor.

Susan adjourned the meeting at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Abbie Sorg, 9/24/19