



**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Friday, September 9, 2022

Present: Denise Devney, Huai-Mei Furman, Neal Grandgenett, Carolina Hotchandani, Sammi Kaiser, Cameron Logsdon, Cara Ortega, Tammi Owens, April Paschall, Jill Russell, Lori Simonsen, Harvey Siy, Matt Tracy, LaReesa Wolfenbarger

Overview of General Education Committee Roles and Responsibilities

From the agenda:

Represent the interests of your college and maintain communication between your college's key constituencies (e.g. deans, relevant curriculum committees, chairs, etc) and the members of the Gen Ed committee.

Serving as an ambassador for the Gen Ed curriculum. This amounts to listening to faculty in your college and identifying any concerns/issues related to the Gen Ed curriculum, while also helping faculty, staff, and students in your college better understand Gen Ed, its importance, and its requirements.

Reviewing course proposals that are elevated to the committee and vote on whether these courses should be included as part of the Gen Ed curriculum.

Reviewing Gen Ed assessment reports from around campus as they are provided to the committee and providing feedback about assessment processes and findings to academic units.

Additional notes:

- As a representative, please keep communication open with your respective Colleges – bring information back to your departmental/College meetings and bring forth your area's feedback – it's really essential this year with our current climate of Gen Ed reform
- We likely won't be spending as much time reviewing courses this year since we mostly have a moratorium on new courses due to Gen Ed reform; we'll still have some courses to review; for example, courses created for the J-Session
- Gen Ed Reform is a priority for administration on campus
- The six College representatives are the voting members of the Committee

Discussion/Announcements:

Priorities for the Year - Fall Focus:

- Every other meeting - we'll have a regular business meeting as a committee

- We'll follow with meeting with the self-identified survey participants to discuss Gen Ed Reform
 - Groups are broken up by rank – to best solicit comments and feedback:
 - Staff, students and advisors on Sept. 23
 - Associate and full professors on Oct. 21
 - Faculty Diversity Scholars on Nov. 18
 - Assistant professors, instructors on Dec. 16
 - Chairs, Directors, Associate Deans on Jan. 27
- Matt will be meeting with the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee at the end of this month
- By the end of this fall, we'd like to come up with broad models that might work for UNO and move from there
- Went through the PowerPoint slides to be used at the Focus Group Meetings which serves as an overview of where we are, some different models of Gen Ed that are out there, and discussion/feedback (will record meetings) on the potential models shown to the groups
- Discussed how we need to be cognizant of transition to a revised Gen Ed – for example; we don't want to inadvertently add required hours to students who are in programs that rely heavily on double-counting Gen Eds in majors
- Do we want to invite higher level administrators to discuss what they'd like to see for the future of Gen Ed?
- Credit hour total – Gen Ed total wasn't lowered when we lowered overall credits required for degree from 125 to 120
- Total number of courses in Gen Ed is large; Matt estimates close to 75 percent of the total 1000/2000-level UNO offers are already part of our Gen Ed

2022-2023 Gen Ed Assessment Cycle

- 150+ courses need to be reviewed in this year's Gen Ed assessment cycle
- Please engage within your Colleges regarding these courses

Courses for Review:

CFAM 1000 Introduction to the Arts: Why the Arts Matter (Humanities & Fine Arts)

- This course is being deactivated

HONR 1130 Honors Humanities (Humanities & Fine Arts)

- Outcome: Approved

LLS 2810/MUS 2810 Music in Latin American Culture (Humanities & Fine Arts; Global Diversity)

- Outcome: Approved

Next Meeting:

September 23, 2022 (Focus Group) 2 – 4 PM