

General Education Council

March 6, 2019 @3:00pm-4:00pm
Butcher Education Center
LAS Dean's Conference Room (016)

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Qiang Shi, Jo Kord, Joan Brewer, Basil Kessler, Javier Flores, David McKenzie, Carol Lucy, Kim Massoth, Amy Oelschlaeger, Sawyer Barragan, Shawna Shane and Sheila Markowitz, Gail Stevens for (Andy Houchins) and Will Sinn (replacing Chris Stone)

ABSENT: Clinton Stevenson (open position), Kathy Landwehr, Andy Houchins and Rich Sleezer

GUESTS: Allan Comstock (Chair, Department of Music), Gaile Stephens (Education Advisor Department of Music) and Linda Adams-Wendling (Chair, Department of Nursing)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from February 27, 2019 were approved.

Nursing Program Revisions/New Course Curricular Approvals/Petitions

Lucy indicated that she had read the entire 112 page supporting document included with the plan to reduce the nursing program to 120 credit hours. She began the discussion about the Nursing program revisions and their requests for general education adjustments with a brief summary of the requests: 1) Goal 1D Information Technology and Information Literacy – to be fulfilled by NU386 Introduction to Evidence Based Practice/Health Informatics; 2) Goal 3 Demonstrate knowledge of similarities and differences among the world's cultures, past and present – to be fulfilled by NU308 Foundations of Nursing and NU492 Nursing Leadership. These courses would be accepted substitutions for Nursing majors. 3) CW152 Introduction to Healthcare Careers – a new course proposed to be added to the list available for all students to fulfill Goal 4 Demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary for promoting personal and social well-being essentially as a replacement for HL150 which has prompted the most discussion for the Council. She opened the discussion with regard to the Nursing requests.

Kord asked Adams-Wendling about the coding of CW152 as a college-wide course rather than NU for Nursing so that the course would be open to all students?

Adams-Wendling responded in the affirmative and that is how it was described in the latest revision of the request.

Lucy asked about the practicality of having a course (CW152) open to all but which had pre-requisites that students were pre-nursing major.

Adams-Wendling replied that it was listed as a pre-nursing major or consent of the instructor.

Lucy reiterated that she had four conditions that she would like to see met for a course to be approved as a general education course: 1) Everyone, any student can take the course; 2) Offered on the Main campus not at the School of Nursing facility; 3) Large enough maximum enrollment so that non-nursing majors would be able to take it. 4) Needed to be substitutable for HL150 either direction, i.e. if a nursing major changes majors they can still use the course to fulfill their goal 4 general education and if a non-nursing major becomes a nursing major they can use HL150 to fulfill the requirement and they will not be forced to take CW152 in addition to HL150. The worry here was that upon reviewing the syllabus the course really appears to be a nursing class not a general education course. Not sure the course is going to benefit non-nursing majors.

Shane asked for a clarification from Markowitz. The question essentially was if the course really does not fit as a general education course open to all, would it be better to have it listed as an accepted substitution for nursing majors for Goal 4? Especially since it is pretty obvious that a nursing major having completed their major and cognate courses will have met the general education requirements for Goal 4: Personal and Social Well-being.

Markowitz indicated that it would be possible to approve and list the course as an accepted substitution for nursing majors fulfilling Goal 4 without listing it as a formal general education course open to all students. Several members of the Council indicated that they were more comfortable with this option and many of the concerns raised by Lucy and others would be eliminated.

Lucy then raised another concern. After looking through the 112 page attachment and performing due diligence by looking at other nursing programs at other State universities both in Kansas and surrounding states she found that 92% of those programs had 45 or more general education credit hours required in their programs. "We have a great nursing program..." but because so much of the program is prescribed (Nursing + Cognate Courses + CW152 = 87 credit hours), are our nursing majors getting the well-rounded education that we want them to get? She would prefer that they could speak to patients on other levels about topics outside healthcare. No question we are turning out great nurses but concerned about the balance in their education. She then asked Adams-Wendling if she had similar concerns.

Adams-Wendling indicated that she thinks what you are going to see is that other institutions will be migrating to programs more similar to ours because the national accrediting body has established what they think should be included in an excellent nursing program. She also indicated that the proposed revisions were developed based on that information so it is in line with what is currently happening in other nursing programs. We (ESU) has had more credit hours in our program than any other program in Kansas. She also indicated that she had given Rich (Dr. Sleezer) the national model that she used to develop the new proposed nursing program which was provided as the framework and guidance to achieve the KBOR mandated reduction to 120 credit hours for the program.

Kord commented that the assessment work she has been involved with (GEAT etc.) indicates that some additional background to cover areas of general education like Goal 3 and Goal 4 are embedded in other courses and major requirements that nurses will still be required to take. She also indicated that Goal 1D for example is most often fulfilled by an accepted substitution in many other departments so she was not overly concerned by an erosion of the general education breadth for nurses in the new program.

McKenzie indicated that he feels that one important goal of the general education program is for someone who is an expert in a discipline other than a student's major gets an opportunity to expose students to ideas and ways of learning not from their major and hopefully some concepts and ideas that they have never thought of. He sees a problem with getting all concepts from the perspective of a student's own discipline. He does not want half of a student's general education to be taught from the same perspective as their major discipline courses.

Kord acknowledged McKenzie's point but again indicated that approximately 13 different courses are used to substitute for Goal 1 D Technology and it seems to work because they are exposed to the technological requirements of their home discipline.

Markowitz proposed that if no further questions needed to be directed to Adams-Wendling she could be allowed to leave and the Council's discussion could be finished without the need for the Chair to be present.

Lucy asked if there were any more questions for Adams-Wendling

Sinn asked if there was a limit to the number of substitutions that an individual student was allowed to receive. His concern was that if there was no limit to the number of substitutions that could be made, would we be allowing the general education program to continually be eroded by similar requests from departments and individual students.

Shane and McKenzie provided clarifications with regard to the nursing request.

Sinn is still expressed concern that there are no limits to the number of substitutions. He also made the point that while technology used in a given department may be specific to that major, technology itself is not necessarily different. It is just a different application of technology. He finds it a little concerning that we might be watering down the general education.

Brewer made a couple of points. First the General Education Council has to approve requests from programs for such substitutions and we can stop that from getting out of hand. Second, specific or special cases always must be approved by the Director of General Education. The cases we are dealing with today and what has pressed the issue has been the KBOR mandate of 120 credit hours in a degree. Discussions she has had with Sleezer recognize that this is less than optimal and should only be allowed for these special cases. Both indicated that they are determined not to set precedents that erode general education. Programs are being forced to give up content and the Teacher's College has been forced to provide some relief too, but there really isn't anything else left to cut other than General Education.

Lucy asked Comstock (Chair of Music Department) what the Music Department was forced to reduce within the BME as an example of content reduction as a function total credit hour reductions for degrees

Comstock indicated that when they first started looking at reductions their program it was at 148 credit hours and they have been continually forced to reduce content but they are caught between their accreditors that require 50% of the program to be music coursework, the coursework required to prepare students to be teachers mandated by the accreditors for the Teacher College, and general education requirements.

Adams-Wendling indicated that they would not have broached the subject of these types of reductions if it had not been for the KBOR requirement of 120 credit hours.

Lucy and Council had no further questions regarding nursing and Adams-Wendling was excused. She indicated that Sleezer would be in touch with final decisions.

Music Department: Changes to BME and its General Education Requirements

Lucy asked Allan Comstock and Gaile Stephens to introduce themselves to discuss the changes to the BME.

Lucy gave an overview of the issues with the Bachelor of Music, Education Concentration. Essentially they began with a program that was 148 hours. They have reduced the music content to the minimum allowable by their music accreditors. They have also worked with Joan Brewer and Paul Bland in the Teacher's College to reduce their professional education requirements as much as is possible given the requirements for accreditation for education. As such the proposal included some changes that had already been approved for BSE Secondary Education majors last year. Essentially that part of the proposal is just asking for those same substitutions to be used for the BME. The issues for discussion today are the request to use both MU328 and MU329 to fulfill the humanities component of general education Goal 2B, a reduction in the goal 2A Creative Arts requirement from two courses to a single course already taken by Music Majors (a two hour Applied Music), a reduction in the number of courses required for Goal 4 Personal and Social Well-being from 2 courses to a single course (HL150 which is required by the Teacher's College for all education majors)

Markowitz wanted it to be clear that they are waiving the requirement for an additional course not any specific course.

Brewer stated that the discussions regarding even suggesting that a requirement might be waived were thorough and every other possibility was explored. She and Sleezer did not want to set a dangerous precedent and she wanted to make it clear that this was only being proposed because of the KBOR 120 credit hour mandate and the fact that no other solution could be found that would not adversely affect accreditation for Music or the Teacher preparation program. Any other such requests would be denied and the hope is that a better long-term solution can eventually be identified.

Lucy reminded the Council that we have introduced a bill to faculty senate executive committee that if passed would reduce the minimum number of credit hours of general education from 48 to 42 which may provide some relief for such problems in the future. She wanted to make it clear that we would actually be breaking the 48 credit our rule. She also indicated that the reduction could only reach 120 for this program by also waiving the requirement for science labs.

Shane questioned this due to the requirement of concurrent enrollment in Earth Science and Lab.

McKenzie clarified that the concurrent enrollment was only a problem for Physical Sciences courses because it was already possible to take the lecture and lab section of GB100-101 and GB140-141 in different semesters.

Markowitz clarified the current rules regarding concurrent enrollment (Lecture + Lab) for physical science general education classes.

Lucy indicated that Sleezer had indicated that he had already talked to the Chairs of Physical Science and Biology and that while they did not like it, they understood the necessity of waiving the concurrent enrollment and lab requirements for Music Education majors only.

Lucy then read similar concerns raised by Kathy Landwehr regarding the waiving of science labs and the potential for students from other majors wanting the same consideration. Landwehr indicated that they (SAC) currently require all advisees to take both labs. She was also concerned that Music Education majors were going to be allowed to satisfy all of their humanities requirements by taking two Music courses.

Brewer indicated that she and Sleezer did not want to move in this direction. She also wanted to make it clear that this was viewed as a short term solution. No movement has been made toward a restructuring of General Education even though it has been discussed for three years in the General Education Council. Programs have had to cut content and the professional education program has had to streamline their content but no such adjustment has been made in General Education. The hope is that we will revisit this within the next two years. She also shared with the Council that Sleezer had gone to the Provost for guidance and asked the following question. We are three hours short of reaching the 120 KBOR mandate for the BME. Would you rather go to KBOR and tell them we were not able to get there or would you rather we broke an internal rule and waive three hours of general education? He (Dr. Cordle) indicated that he did not like either choice but he would rather break an internal rule than go back to KBOR with a statement that we were unable to reduce a program to 120 credit hours when all other institutions in the Regent's system had already been able to do so.

Shane asked if the Council should allow Comstock and Stephens to exit the meeting if they had no further questions for them.

Lucy asked the Council if they had further questions for the Music Department.

Comstock thanked Brewer and Sleezer for their help and acknowledged that the current situation was not ideal. He indicated that he would prefer that the proposed changes would be temporary. He also indicated that worries of additions of course encroaching further on general education were in his opinion unfounded because they were not adding any courses rather they were in fact making cuts to their major courses too. He told the Council he appreciated their willingness to be flexible. He also explained why their program was a Bachelor of Music program instead of a BSE. Essentially it has to do with marketability of graduates.

Brewer interjected two pertinent points. 1) Sleezer is still recommending that the Music advisor (Stephens) recommend to her students that they take the labs and an additional course in Goal 4 in case they decide to change their major even though it is not required. 2) MU210 Foundations of Music Education will serve as an accepted substitution for ED220 Introduction to Teaching. When they enroll in MU210 they will also enroll in a zero credit hour ED220 in which they will be required to complete a verification check list that they have met all of the criteria currently included in ED220 before they will be allowed to move forward with their professional education training. There will be no external substitution for MU210 accepted. If they transfer in they will be required to take ED220.

Stephens indicated that they will be cutting content from MU210 so that they fulfill requirements for ED220.

Shane asked if that had already been approved by CTE and Brewer said it would be discussed at the next meeting.

Stephens provided some additional details of cuts to Music Methods courses indicating the bare bones nature of their program as a function of cuts and reminding Council members that their majors are certified Pre-K through 12 and that they are also certified for choral and instrumental methods. Stephens and Comstock elaborated on the number of credit hours most music education majors take per semester (18-21 hours) and the work required to learn all of the instruments they must be ready to teach.

Council members thanked Stephens and Comstock and they exited.

Lucy asked the Council to consider voting on all proposals at this meeting. She then asked which one they wished to consider first. Council discussed the order of consideration and decided to address the new course for nursing (CW152) first.

Shane made a motion that CW152 be an accepted substitution for nursing majors to satisfy Goal 4. The motion was seconded by McKenzie.

Lucy called the question for a vote. The motion passed. Votes were 6 for, 0 no, 2 abstentions.

Brewer made a motion to approve the curricular change for the BSN program changing the total number of credit hours from 128 to 120. The motion was seconded by Shane.

Lucy shared with the Council the position that Sleezer is in with regard to the two program proposals. The Council is advisory. Regardless of how the Council votes the Director of

General Education and the Provost are in a position where they may be forced to do what must be done regardless of the recommendation.

Flores expressed the opinion that he still does not feel like he has a clear picture of all the implications of the decision to be made. He understands the pressures applied to administrators to make decisions which they do not want to make but he would prefer to have a clearer picture of what may happen in the future.

Brewer mentioned that the faculty senate bill may take care of some of these problems if the reduction from 48 to 42 passes. The bigger problem of the KBOR limit and the requirements of accreditors will still exist.

Kord shared that the School of Nursing actually has to follow the rules set forth by a Kansas accreditor and a national accreditor. Nursing cannot operate without accreditation. KBOR is not going to relent. The result has to be a compromise.

Lucy indicated that we need to revise the general education program but it just takes time. She also reiterated the concern that McKenzie had raised that the nursing program is probably too confined to its silo. BME majors are forced to get outside of their building to take courses in other colleges.

Shane expressed the opinion that she was not certain that was actually true and she has no problem with the Nursing program. She is more concerned with General Education with the BME.

Lucy shared that Sleezer had shared with her that the BME only graduates 1-4 students per semester. It represents a really small number of students.

Brewer confirmed that the most they had graduated in a year was five students.

McKenzie shared that in another conversation with Sleezer that he was aware of the small numbers. However, if those numbers increase he would be much more likely to become concerned and push to revisit the question in the General Education Council.

Markowitz asked if Sleezer had talked to the Physical Science department about taking lecture without the lab.

Sleezer indicated that he had spoken with both science chairs. Obviously it is a bigger problem in physical science because of the concurrent enrollment requirement and would require them to waive the concurrent enrollment requirement for Music Education majors. He also stated that he had talked with Stephens and encouraged her to still advise students to take the lab even though it is not required so that if they change their major they do not have to retake a class. This practice would also help to address some of the concerns that Landwehr had raised.

Lucy called for a vote on the Brewer motion to approve the BSN changes. Result: 4 Votes yes, 2 votes no, 2 abstentions.

Lucy asked if there was discussion on BME.

Shane asked if they all voted against it would it still be approved by Sleezer and Cordle?

Brewer stated that she was convinced that all possible options had been explored. She was convinced that Stephens would still advise students to take the labs and a second Goal 4 course in case they change majors.

Shane suggested the possibility of all members abstaining since it is likely the changes will have to be approved regardless to satisfy the KBOR requirement. If all members abstain perhaps it sends a signal that this should not be a precedent.

Barragan expressed his opinion that a program should not be able to require so many credit hours that it prevents students from getting a well-rounded education.

Kord reiterated the number of required music credits required was the minimum to maintain accreditation.

Shane stated that the consequence was that majors in such a program take a smaller number of general education hours and that is not preferable. There seemed to be general agreement by other Council members.

Brewer stated that she and Sleezer shared the concerns raised by Barragan and Shane. If the Council abstained as a group then it does send a message that while the Council understands the situation they do not necessarily support these types of changes.

Lucy called for a vote. 1 vote for. No votes against. 9 abstentions.

Markowitz provided some perspective on the role of the catalog, what needs to be in the catalog, and the confusing nature of having different

Meeting adjourned: 4:03

Recorder: km

