

General Education Council
February 14, 2018
MU, PKP Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Qiang Shi, Rich Sleezer, Chris Stone, Jo Kord, David McKenzie, Carol Lucy, Kathy Landwehr, Basil Kessler, Steve Lovett, Sheila Markowitz and Kim Massoth

ABSENT: Joan Brewer, Klasee Crawford, Maddison Thompson, Andy Houchins, Amy Oelschlager and Shawna Shane

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 24th minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

2. **4th Categories-Goal 2B Humanities (Wording Change)**

Sleezer had been asked by the Council to consult with Markowitz about possible wording changes to the requirements for Goal 2B Humanities to allow for the inclusion of AR225 and AR235 which have already been approved for inclusion. The current wording is, "Select two courses, one each from any two of the following three areas." The gist of the problem is what area would AR225 and AR235 be listed as or could the wording be changed to avoid the use of the term area? Sleezer and Markowitz shared with the Council their discussion of how best to phrase the new requirement to be flexible but still ensure that the students get a well-rounded experience. Their suggestion was to do away with the area categories and make the requirement be two disciplines.

The suggested wording was, "Select two courses. One each from any two disciplines."

Council discussed the suggested wording and whether it would be appropriate for other general education requirements. A motion was made by Qian to adopt the suggested wording above for just General Education Goal 2B Humanities. The motion was seconded by McKenzie. The motion passed 7 – 0.

Motioned was made by

3. **Mission Statement-Final editing and action-** Sleezer had been tasked by the Council with providing a list of options for the wording of the new Mission Statement. He briefly discussed the handout which had a four options for the Council to review based on comments made in the previous meeting. The Old Mission Statement, the proposed draft Mission Statement discussed at the previous meeting and four options drafted by Sleezer based on Council member comments are included below.

OLD MISSION: The General Education Program at ESU provides students with an educational experience that promotes their personal well-being, prepares them for career success and provides for the common good. This program is at the core of the university experience and complements a student's major program of study.

Rich's attempt at a new Mission:

The mission of the General Education Program at Emporia State University is to enhance our students' major programs of study by broadening their **shared** educational experience. The program accomplishes this mission by improving students' core skills, by increasing their knowledge of a wide variety of academic disciplines, by enhancing their capabilities to obtain, critically evaluate, and use information from different sources to solve problems and make informed decisions, and by preparing them to be knowledgeable, civic-minded, culturally competent, **lifelong learners**, and adaptive leaders in an increasingly diverse society.

Revised versions.

General Education Mission:

- 1...to enhance major programs of study by broadening shared educational experiences and preparation to become knowledgeable, civic-minded, culturally competent, and adaptive leaders in a diverse global society.

- 2...to enhance major programs of study by broadening shared educational experiences and preparation to become knowledgeable, civic-minded, culturally competent, **lifelong learners**, and adaptive leaders in a diverse global society.

- 3...to enhance major programs of study by broadening shared educational experiences and **academic** preparation to become knowledgeable, civic-minded, culturally competent, **lifelong learners**, and adaptive leaders in a diverse global society.

- 4...to enhance major programs of study **through broad** shared educational experiences and **academic** preparation to become civic-minded, culturally competent, and adaptive leaders in a diverse global society.

Council discussed the various options. Lovett suggested a grammatical change ("by broadening" changed to "through broadly"). Sleezer asked for a straw poll on which of the four versions Council members preferred. The majority preferred option three and the reworded version of it is provided below:

New Mission Statement:

...to enhance major programs of study through broadly shared educational experiences and **academic** preparation to become knowledgeable, civic-minded, culturally competent, **lifelong learners**, and adaptive leaders in a diverse global society.

Kessler made the motion to approve the new mission statement with wording amended above. Lucy seconded the motion. Votes were 8-0 to approve.

4. **Should we consider formally reducing the General Education program to 45 hours?**
- a. Implications-what would we cut to change from the current 48 requirement to a new 45 hour requirement? Markowitz discussed with the Council the categories in the current 45 hour KBOR articulation agreement and how they compare with our current requirements.
 - b.
 - 1) 12 Hours of Basic Skills (Our current Core Skills minus a Technology Class)
 - 6 hours of English Composition
 - 3 hours of Speech Communication
 - 3 hours of college level mathematics
 - 2) 12 Hours of humanities from at least three of the following disciplines
 - Art, Theatre, Philosophy, Music, History, Literature
 - 3) 12 hours of Social and Behavioral Science courses from at least three of the following disciplines
 - Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Geography, Psychology, Anthropology
 - 4) 9 Hours of Natural and Physical Science courses from at least two disciplines (Lecture with Lab)
 - Biology + Physical Sciences

Council discussed various options but no decisions or official action was taken.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00pm