

## General Education Council

April 25, 2018

MU, Black & Gold Room

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Rich Sleezer, Carol Lucy, Andy Houchins, Quang Shi, Steve Lovett, Chris Stone, Kim Massoth, Basil Kessler, Amy Oelschlager, Maddison Thompson, Dave McKenzie and Joan Brewer

**ABSENT:** Klassee Crawford, Sheila Markowitz, Jo Kord, Kathy Landwehr and Shawna Shane

**GUEST:** Javier Flores

**MINUTES:** Minutes for April 11, 2018 were approved

**Justification for reduction of credit hours:** At the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting the Council on General Education voted to reduce the minimum number of credit hours required for the ESU general education program from 48 to 42. Council members understand that in order for a reduction to become official it will require the passage of a bill through faculty senate. Whether the intent is to simply reduce the total number of hours required in our general education program or evaluate a new, streamlined experimental general education program the next step is to draft and submit a bill to faculty senate and that bill will need to contain a justification for the proposed reduction.

Sleezer provided two handouts for the Council which he briefly discussed: 1) A summary of justifications (six bullet points) for a reduction in general education credit hours discussed at the previous meeting, two arguments against a reduction and some summary statistics about how the reduction to 120 hours affected programs at ESU; 2) The spreadsheet containing the total number of credit hours required for the 68 undergraduate baccalaureate programs at ESU (General Education + program requirements) as listed in the 2017-2018 catalog. It is important to note that only 21 of the 68 programs required more than 120 in the 2017-2018 catalog and most of those were BSE programs.

A general discussion followed about strategies that could be employed to justify a reduction in general education hours, implications of a reduction in general education hours, whether it was still possible to conduct an experimental general education program, and other related topics. A variety of questions were posed and discussed such as: What is the intent of the reduction? Would it encourage students to complete additional minors or second programs of study? Would it increase the depth of understanding for students in their majors by encouraging them to take additional electives in their major fields? Would it still provide an adequate amount of breadth? Would it help programs like music and physical sciences to prepare students with teaching credentials in multiple fields rather than a single area of teaching licensure? What are the implications of the economics of the State and possible future actions by the legislature and the Kansas Board of Regents (e.g. change to 120 hours that has already occurred). What needs to be included in the Bill to be submitted to faculty senate?

No official action was taken.

**Senate Bill Authorship:** Will discuss at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

- a. 2-3 Volunteers-writers
- b. Student input-volunteers to work on getting student opinion
- c. Steering volunteers to attend faculty senate meetings-(2 or more council members and at least one student)

Meeting adjourned: 4:00 pm