

General Education Committee Minutes: 12/5/2019

11 am – 12 noon, VFS 420

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Monica Frees (RSS), Rachel Foulk (CAS), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), and Mary Beaudry (COHP).

Guest: Peter Bradley (Honors College Director)

Absent: Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Khagendra Thapa (CET), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Amy Greene (EIO), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs)

1. Minutes for 11/12/2019: Approved unanimously.
2. Discussion: Closing the Loop Conversation for Natural Science

On November 21, 2019, there was a conversation to close the loop on assessment data for the natural science competency. Several members of the committee were present and provided the following comments/observations:

- The conversation was very useful and interesting.
- We should contact other colleges and departments to see which closing the loop conversations their faculty might want to attend.
- The T/R 11:00 hour is already packed, so we should consider a different time (even though there is no perfect time).

3. Running Annual Agenda (as time permits)

- Waiving gen ed requirements for students who have a bachelor's degree from another institution

There already is a policy in place, Academic Affairs Policy 08:1.

- International Baccalaureate Diplomas: Can we waive requirements? See <https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>

Peter Bradley explained the International Baccalaureate Diplomas. They are modeled after the French system, which covers high school plus a first year in college. He noted that IB is more rigorous than AP courses. The curriculum is based on international standards, and exams are graded centrally in Paris. While there are IB courses, some high schools offer IB diploma. The diploma requires minimum scores on all IB course exams, a more comprehensive

exam, along with a Theory of Knowledge course, service hours, and an extended essay.

The questions are:

- (a) How can we recognize an IB Diploma?
- (b) How can we recognize the extended essay?

As an example of how other institutions handle IB Diplomas, Alma College waives all first year general education courses and gives students who enter with an IB diploma 32 credits.

It was noted that IB Diploma recipients tend to be interested in the humanities and health care, and that these students are likely to be attracted to our humanities minors. They would be able to start humanities minors in the upper level courses.

It was also noted that we could attract IB Diploma earners with scholarship funds. We could also make arrangements for concurrent enrollment or early college experiences for IB Diploma students.

For the extended essay, Peter noted that the chair of ELWL did not think the essay was sufficient for ENGL 250. However, the committee noted that ENGL 250 prereqs for upper-level humanities courses could be waived for students who perform at a sufficient level on the extended essay.

For next steps, we will contact Transfer, MyDegree, and the Registrar to examine logistical matters. We will also give the Senate a heads-up during the January meeting.