General Education Committee Minutes: 10/8/2019

11 am – 12 noon, Granger 102

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Mary Beaudry (COHP), Monica Frees (RSS), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), Rachel Foulk (CAS), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs).

Absent: Khagendra Thapa (CET), Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Amy Greene (EIO), and Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison).

1. Announcements

   - Thank you to: Khagendra, Monica

     Khagendra was thanked for sharing his vulnerability during the 9/26 meeting, and Monica was thanked for helping make our agendas and minutes accessible.

   - Data-Use Update

     The data-use working group met, and Victor is working on a draft philosophy of assessment.

2. Approval of Agenda

   Approved unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

   - Minutes for 9/26/2019
   - PHSC 105 (Natural Science)

   Approved unanimously.

4. Recertification

   - ENGL 150. Recertified with unanimous vote.
   - COMM 105. Recertified with unanimous vote.
   - COMM 121. Recertified with unanimous vote.

   The committee noted that they liked how the COMM courses involved a nationally generated assessment.

It was noted during the discussion that documenting the use of assessment data for continuous improvement is vague, and faculty should be provided some guidance as part of the process.

The committee also discussed challenges students face with writing mechanics and research. The following was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously:

The Undergraduate General Education Committee should pursue a university-wide conversation on writing mechanics and research.

5. Proposals

   - COHP 101 (Self and Society)

     The committee discussed the first question in the decision form: whether the course satisfied the operational definition. The committee voted unanimously that it did. The remainder of the discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

     In the discussion, the committee noted several problems with the current operational definition:

     o The definition states that social science methods, theories, principles, and applications should constitute 80% of the course. But it isn't clear if there is a particular allocation among the four elements, or whether any combination of the four elements which constitutes 80% of the course could be approved. In particular, the Self and Society Subcommittee members who objected to approving the course noted the lack of social science methods in the COHP 101 course, but if 80% of the course is spread among theories, principles, and applications, then one reading of the definition suggests that the absence of methods is not a problem.

     o In addition, it was noted that "80% of the course" is an unclear formulation.

   - READ 176 (Self and Society)

     Tabled to the next meeting.