

General Education Committee Minutes: 3/19/2020

11 am – 12 noon, Online

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Clifton Franklund (Assessment Coordinator), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Rachel Foulk (CAS), Jacob Pollak (COEHS), Monica Frees (RSS), Jimmie Joseph (COB), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), and Mary Beaudry (COHP).

Absent: Angie Mishler (Academic Counselors), Khagendra Thapa (CET), Amy Greene (EIO), Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs).

1. Approval of Agenda: Approved Unanimously
2. Consent Agenda: Approved Unanimously

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3. Discussion: Culture – Prefix Requirements

The committee continued to discuss a recommendation from members of the Humanities Department and English, Literature, and World Languages Department to change the culture competency by (a) removing the requirement that students take courses carrying at least two prefixes, and (b) the limitation on activities credits.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of the recommendation to remove the two-prefix requirement for the culture competency.

The policy to make a change to the general education program is:

Changes in General Education

- A) Changes in general education that alter the current general education course requirements or the total number of credits assigned to each category may be recommended by any member of the University community and forwarded to the Coordinator of General Education and the UGEC, who will consult with the VPAA on the proposed change. If the VPAA wishes to consider the change, a joint committee appointed by the VPAA and the Senate will be convened to do so. The joint committee's recommendation will be shared with the Senate, which can offer additional feedback for the VPAA's consideration. If the VPAA endorses a major change to general education, it must be forwarded to the FSU Board of Trustees for approval before it is implemented.

Changes, then, go through the following process: Recommender > Coordinator /UGEC/VPAA > Joint Committee > Senate > VPAA > Board of Trustees”

- B) Changes in general education policy, procedure, or committee membership may be recommended by any member of University community and forwarded to the Coordinator of General Education and the UGEC for discussion. The recommended change and results of UGEC discussions will be shared with the Academic Senate and the VPAA for additional feedback before a final decision on the recommended change is made by the UGEC.

The committee decided to flesh out their positions before proceeding to discuss with the VPAA.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of the recommendation to remove the two-prefix requirement for the culture competency. The main concern is that removing the requirement removes breadth from the program. There is a strong case to allow an exception for students in the Spanish minor, but allowing an exception for Spanish opens the door to allowing other minors to make a case for an exception as well, especially since some minors are inherently interdisciplinary. This would require an appropriate process by which a minor coordinator could apply to the UGEC for such treatment. Others noted that removing the two-prefix requirement would be cleaner, and some members prefer removal.

Next steps: Discuss activities at the next meeting, then wait until Fall to discuss with the new VPAA.