General Education Council
Minutes
September 25, 2020

**Voting Members Present via Zoom:** Sarah Arrington, Herb Brown, Beth Carroll, Jeanne Dubino, Carolyn Edy, Jamie Griffin, Brent James, Rick Klima, Vicky Klima, Melissa Lesbines, Susan Lutz, Matthew Mair, Ted Zerucha (chair).

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Eric Berry, Mark Ginn, Kristin Hyle, Angela Mead, Sheryl Mohn, Lynne Waugh, Sarah Zurhellen

**Guests Present:** Laura England, Tina Hogan, Heather Langdon, Martin Meznar, Carla Penders

**Voting Members Absent:** Ed Behrend-Martinez (voted by email), Rob Brown, Maria McDowell

The General Education Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2020 via Zoom. Ted Zerucha called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm when a quorum was reached. Dr. Zerucha thanked everyone for attending and welcomed new members.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**VOTE 1:** Approval of April 24, 2020 minutes  
Yes: 11 No: 0 Abstain: 1  
*Minutes approved as written.*

Dr. Zerucha then gave an update on the General Education listening sessions:

**General Education Listening Sessions**

The General Education Program at Appalachian seeks to provide students with a first-rate liberal arts education. Our goal is well-rounded students with the knowledge and skills important for professional and personal success at Appalachian and after graduation: abilities to think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, make local-to-global connections, and understand the responsibilities of community membership.

As an experience shared by our undergraduate students and our faculty, it is important that the General Education program represents Appalachian's identity. It is also important for our General Education program to adapt and evolve in response to emerging challenges, changes, and opportunities. This fall semester, a group of colleagues from colleges across campus, the Student Government Association, and the General Education Program will be hosting campus-wide listening sessions to hear perspectives from the campus community on a range of topics related to the General Education Program, and to help plan for its future. Today, we are pleased to announce the first two topics (additional topics will be announced later in the semester). Please make plans to join us during these sessions to help us think about our General Education Program.

**Session 1:** Social Justice and Inclusive Excellence in General Education  
**Session 2:** Sustainability and Climate Literacy in General Education

**Committee:**

Leslie Bradbury (Curriculum and Instruction, Elementary Ed / RCOE)  
Emily Daughtridge (Theatre and Dance / FAA)  
Leonardo Flores (Chair English / CAS)  
Bailey Gardin (SGA)  
Darci Gardner (Languages Literature & Cultures / CAS)  
Tina Hogan (IRAP)  
Kristin Hyle (Assistant Director Gen Ed)  
Richard Klima (Director FYS)  
Melissa Lesbines (Hayes School of Music)  
Denise Levy (Associate Dean BCHS)  
Abhi Ramalingam (Economics / WCOB)  
Ted Zerucha (Director Gen Ed / Committee Chair)
The next sessions will be held via open Zoom meetings – dates will be determined soon. The goal originally was to hold the listening session during Fall semester, refine the curriculum in Spring 2021 semester and then to AP&P in Fall 2021 with effective date of Fall 2021. This timeline may need to be adjusted. We want to insure the process is meaningful – that this drives the process rather than the calendar. Ted encouraged members to reach out if they have any additional feedback.

Dr. Zerucha updated members on assessment efforts. The new dashboard IRAP has created was introduced. This is going to be a valuable instrument in tracking how we are meeting Gen Ed goals. The link to the dashboard will be emailed to department chairs. The link is currently on the Council’s AsULearn site.

Vicky Klima reported on the Summer 2020 Assessment Summit: Making Local to Global Connections. The full report is posted on the Council AsULearn site. Dr. Klima thanked IRAP and all the participants for their hard work.

**VOTE 2**: Approval of the numeric criteria as presented.
Yes: 12 No: 0 Abstain: 0  
*Motion carried.*

**VOTE 3**: Approval of the revised rubric
Yes: 13 No: 0 Abstain: 0  
*Motion carried.*

Dr. Zerucha updated the Council on course renewals. The process was paused in 19/20 academic year to refine the form and process. We would like to restart this process this year, as it is much more streamlined. We will begin with departments who did not submit as scheduled in 17/18 (Cohort 1) and complete them this academic year. Then we would move on to Cohort 2 in 20/21. Ted and Kristin are finalizing the spreadsheet. Dr. Zerucha will communicate with departments up for renewal.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Submitted by,
Sheryl M. Mohn
Scribe