

General Education Committee Meeting Minutes 5 September 2024

Members Present: Bry Bellovary, Stuart Daman, Christine Uliassi, Karen Downey, Carol Van Der Karr, Doug Armstead, Stephen Maher, Nancy Diller, Patrick Donnelly, Susan Slivan, Dan Radus

Members Absent : Bruce Mattingly, Gregory Ketcham

| Topic | Comments | Action |
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| Selection of Chair | <p>Carol nominates Dan; he disclosed he cannot serve as chair in the spring due to sabbatical leave. B Bellovary seconds.</p> <p>Dan will serve as chair for fall semester.</p> | C van der Karr nominates D Radus. B Bellovary seconds. Unanimous approval. |
| Approve April minutes | Pass by general consent | |
| Volunteer for minutes | Will include <i>potential</i> meeting 5 Dec 2024. | Sign up sheet for date selection |
| Revised category language | The revised language recorded in the April minutes hasn't yet appeared online. | N Diller will update websites |
| Assessment results | <p>Report from Stuart: sufficient results were reported by instructors to allow data analysis, though there were some instructors who did fail to submit data.</p> <p>When do we want results? It's desirable to have results returned to stakeholders in time to have discussion and processing/meaning-making this fall. Stuart says the end of September is the earliest it could be done.</p> <p>Should we make departmental breakdown available? Typically there might only be one or two courses/instructors per department contributing to this assessment each year. In that case, this would/could become a referendum on individually identifiable instructors, which is no part of our mandate and is explicitly discouraged by SUNY Senate.</p> <p>Is there a way/reason to encourage faculty to think of themselves as a "General Education" department? To initiate conversations about why one GE category sees 10% unacceptable results vs others at 4%? Much discussion about data privacy vs closing the loop and making use of these analyses.</p> <p>*Can request departmental reflection on results.</p> | <p>S Daman will evaluate practicality of re-sending each instructor their percentage breakdown at the same time that all instructors are sent the full category breakdown.</p> <p>S Daman will also revise visual representations of the data to make them more broadly usable.</p> |

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| | <p>*Can allow individual faculty to proactively request a private analysis of their own course data re: first gen students, etc, for their own use.</p> <p>*Could require a final component to each GE assessment, of requiring a response from the department, “how did you make use of these assessment results?”</p> <p>*Could automatically provide individual breakdown to each instructor and request their response. Stuart balks at automatically breaking down data for all 30 instructors rather than only those who request it. Will evaluate whether a lesser level of analysis would be feasible for sending to each instructor.</p> <p>Tentative plan: We provide top-level data for entire category, including demographic breakdown. We provide individual instructors with *just* their unacceptable/acceptable/target percentages and ask for their reflections.</p> <p>Sorting data by sex or gender identity is missing. There is a feeling that sorting by gender will either not be possible (due to the small percentage of students who have registered gender identity with the college, as distinct from sex), <i>or</i> will risk individually identifying students (due to the small numbers of nonbinary students in individual classes). Collating data by sex would be possible though would elide the difference between sex and gender identity.</p> | |
| <p>This year’s assessments: GENS, GEWH, GEC</p> | <p>Composition will be evaluated largely by the College Writing Committee in consultation with this committee. C Uliassi and K Downey are members of both committees and will liaise.</p> | <p>D Radus supplies tentative timeline for committee’s consideration</p> |
| <p>Coming soon(ish)</p> | <p>There may soon be a new competency, Civic Discourse in our Democracy. We will discuss more as SUNY clarifies.</p> | |
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