

MEETING MINUTES

Institution-Wide Committee

Monday, May 18, 2020

11:30 a.m.

Meeting by Conference Call

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by Sam Hirsch.

II. Attendance

Delegates

Federation: Rainah Chambliss, Sean Sauer, Stan Walling, Jalyn Warren

Administration: Carol de Fries, Judith Gay, Samuel Hirsch

Students: Quiana Cureton

Alternates

Federation: Roberta Massuch, Brian Seymour

Administration: Mary Anne Celenza (voting)

Students: None

Guests

Amy Birge

III. Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2020

Carol de Fries made a motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2020. Stan Walling seconded the motion. All voted in favor of acceptance. The minutes of April 27, 2020 were approved.

IV. Old Business - None

V. New Business

- a. Proposal to Revise the Foundation of General Education from Major Areas of Learning, Major Academic Approaches, and Core Competencies to Essential Skills – Curriculum Committee

Sam Hirsch thanked Amy Birge for her leadership for the proposed revision to General Education. Amy Birge used a PowerPoint (included) to review the highlights of the proposed revision. Amy Birge said the proposal identifies six essential skills. She emphasized that there is no increase in credits for graduation with the current proposal. The PowerPoint and supporting documents were used to explain the background for the changes, the six essentials, the advantages of the proposed requirements, and next steps to reach a proposed implementation in Fall 2021.

Carol de Fries asked whether the essential skills align with NACE standards. Amy Birge said the skills will align at the program level for some programs.

Stan Walling stated that here is an “avalanche” of changes. He asked if there is time to get the changes made using our current process for approval. Amy Birge responded that the majority of programs do not need a lot of changes. Most of the changes make the requirements “more transparent.” She said that there is a need to be flexible and there may be a need to adjust the process. Stan Walling asked if the College could use an expedited process for course changes. Amy Birge responded that course changes do not go through the Curriculum Committee so there is already fewer steps for approval. Stan Walling questioned the timeline and asked if Fall 2022 is more realistic than Fall 2021. Amy Birge responded that there is a chance it will not go as quickly as planned. Sam Hirsch added that they do not want to lose the momentum.

Judy Gay said the presentation mentioned Middle States Standard three. She said critical thinking and ethics and values are specifically mentioned as essential skills in that standard. Judy Gay said she assumed that the argument is that critical thinking is included in all six of the proposed essential skills but where are the ethics and values elements? Amy Birge agreed that the assumption is that critical thinking is included in all of the essential skills and that ethics and values are included in the Cultural Analysis and Interpretation essential skill. Judy Gay responded that they may need an assessment plan to document that the assumptions are correct.

Stan Walling said the Cultural Analysis and Interpretation category is a large one. He said he fears that we will lose the diversity of what we currently have at the College. Amy Birge agreed that the Cultural Analysis group is large. She said there is no way to mitigate that without adding a category and adding credits. Stan Walling said we may be compromising education. He said this will affect how students choose courses. He asked if there is room for accommodation? Will students be able to fulfill more than one of the six requirements with one course? Amy Birge responded that they will create detailed lists. Programs will choose courses. This will help programs provide a more guided choice for courses.

Judy Gay said she assumes that there is a transition plan for moving from one set of requirements to another. She asked if there will be a crosswalk. Amy Birge said that each program will have a transparent plan for transition. As with other changes, the Fall 2021 catalog would mark the start of the new requirements for students entering at that point.

Sam Hirsch asked if Quiana Cureton had any questions. Quiana Cureton asked if 175 courses were going to be involved in the change. Amy agreed that it could involve that many courses.

Judy Gay asked if Amy Birge could send the PowerPoint to include with the minutes and Amy Birge agreed to provide it.

Action: Judy Gay made a motion to recommend the proposed changes to the General Education requirements. Stan Walling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sam Hirsch asked for an expedited review. He asked that there be an electronic vote to approve the minutes since the IWC members may be different for the next academic year.

VI. Adjournment

Sam Hirsch thanked the members of the IWC for their work this past year. He said the Committee reviewed a lot of things. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.