**WIU Council on General Education**

**Meeting Minutes**

**November 6, 2014**

Fall 2014 CGE Members

Marjorie Allison Dept. of English & Journalism (Humanities/Fine Arts)

Panakkattu Babu Dept. of Physics (Math/Natural Science)

Rumen Dimitrov Dept. of Mathematics (Math/Natural Science)

Andrea Hanna Dept. of Curriculum & Instruction (At-Lagre)

Magdelyn Helwig Dept. of English & Journalism (Communication Skills)

John Miller Dept. of Communication (Communication Skills)

Russ Morgan College of Arts & Sciences (Ex-officio, Dean's Council Representative)

Nancy Parsons Office of the Provost (Ex-officio, Provost's Representative)

Darcy Plymire Dept. of Kinesiology (Human Well Being)

Diane Sandage Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology (Social Science)

Joanne Sellen Dept. of Educational & Interdisciplinary Studies (At-Large)

Keva Steadman Dept. of Economics & Decision Sciences (Social Science)

Oswald Warner Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology (Multicultural)

Joseph Kallenbach Student Government Association (Social Science)

Jeannie Woods Dept. of Theatre & Dance (Humanities/Fine Arts)

Michelle Yager Advising Center (Ex-officio, COAA Representative)

**Elected Members Present:** Diane Sandage (CGE Chair, Soc & Anthro), Marjorie Allison (Eng & Jour), Panakkattu Babu (Physics), Rumen Dimitrov (Math), Andrea Hanna (Curr & Instr), Magdelyn Helwig (CGE Vice-chair, Eng & Jour), Joseph Kallenbach (SGA), John Miller (Communication), Joanne Sellen (CGE Secretary, EIS, in QC), Keva Steadman (Economics and Decision Science, in QC), Jeannie Woods (Theatre & Dance)

***Elected Members Excused:*** Darcy Plymire (Kinesiology), Oswald Warner (Soc & Anthro)

***Ex-Officio members present***: Nancy Parsons (Office of the Provost), Michelle Yager (COAA)

***Ex-officio* Members Excused/Absent:** Russ Morgan (CAS)

**Guests Present:** Dr. Gary Schmidt (Chair, FL&L), Kelley Quinn (FL&L), Dr. Simon Cordery (Chair, History), Dr. Richard Filipink (History)

**CGE Chair Diane Sandage called the meeting to order at 3:35PM in Horrabin 1 on the Macomb campus and with a connection to room 205 on the Quad Cities Campus.**

**MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, AND REPORTS**

**Welcome to guests:** Dr. Gary Schmidt (Chair, FL&L), Kelley Quinn (FL&L), Dr. Simon Cordery (Chair, History), Dr. Richard Filipink (History)

Minutes from the last meeting on October 23, 2014 were approved.

**Additions to the Agenda:** N/A

**Announcements:** N/A

**REPORTS:**

* 1. Office of the Provost – N/A
  2. CAS – N/A
  3. University Advising – Michelle Yager brought additional copies of the General Education Handbook for new members
  4. Faculty Senate/Articulation Requests – Chair Sandage reported that there have been two articulation requests, both in Humanities/Fine Arts. One has been approved. One is in process awaiting more information regarding statute of limitations on when the course was taken. A quick email to the Registrar confirmed there is no statute of limitations.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Discussion regarding tabling of FL 350—Dr. Schmidt explained that in reviewing the course and the discussion from our previous meeting, the department has determined that what they want to accomplish with the course is more in line with Gen Ed than WID, so they would like for the committee to consider the course for Gen Ed contingent on having the WID designation removed. John Miller asked if there would also be changes to the course. Dr. Schmidt explained that the explicit writing instruction would be removed. Marjorie Allison stated that, with no other changes to the course, she still sees the class as very discipline specific. When asked to clarify, she explained that she was concerned that the level at which the course is situated would make it difficult for a student not familiar with study in that area to succeed in the course. John Miller followed up by asking if, for example, a Chemistry major would be able to succeed in the class. Both Dr. Schmidt and Kelley Quinn explained that this would certainly be possible, and that in previous iterations of the class students from areas such as LEJA were able to succeed. Joanne Sellen stated that she believes that the course covers important material for students and so should be included in Gen Ed. Magdelyn Helwig agrees that the material is important but is concerned that it is pitched at too high a level, as indicated by the Junior standing pre-requisite. Chair Sandage pointed out that we should not neglect discussion of whether the course fits into the Multicultural category. The committee was in general agreement that it does meet the Multicultural standard. John Miller called the question on the tabled motion. A vote was held on the motion from October 9, 2014: deny inclusion of FL 350 as a General Education course. The vote was three in favor, seven opposed, with one abstention. Motion failed. John Miller moved to approve FL 350 as a Multicultural General Education course, subject to removal of the WID designation. Rumen Dimitrov seconded. The vote was seven in favor, three opposed, with one abstention. Motion approved. FL 350 must assess Goal 5. Magdelyn Helwig moved that the course also assess Goal 2. Marjorie Allison seconded. The vote was eleven in favor. Motion approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request for HIST 115 and 116 for inclusion in General Education—Dr. Cordery explained that these courses will replace the current Western Civ courses. John Miller asked why the courses break at 1500. Dr. Cordery explained that, practically speaking, that’s where most textbooks break, but a larger concern is providing sufficient time to delve into World history rather than just Western history. Since the course request is for dual category in Humanities and Multicultural, John Miller also asked for clarification of how the courses would address issues of social justice. The course will be focused on world societies rather than just Western societies. John Miller moved to approve HIST 115 and 116 as both Humanities and Multicultural Gen Ed courses. Marjorie Allison seconded. The vote was eleven in favor. Motion approved. Magdelyn Helwig asked why 115 and 116 proposed different assessment goals. Dr. Cordery explained that since these classes are a sequence, this was to provide a broader range of data on the learning in the classes. Magdelyn Helwig also noted that the assessment plan for Goal 5 was more clearly articulated for HIST 211 and might also be used for 115/116. Marjorie Allison moved that HIST 115 assess Goals 5 and 2. John Miller seconded. The vote was ten in favor. Motion approved. Marjorie Allison moved that HIST 116 assess Goals 5 and 1. PK Babu seconded. The vote was ten in favor. Motion approved.
2. Request for HIST 211 for inclusion in General Education—Dr. Cordery explained that the department is working to provide more 200-level courses that can serve as doorways into studying history for a wider population of students. PK Babu asked about the difference between 211 and 483G. Dr. Cordery explained that the 400-level course had a much narrower focus. John Miller moved to approve HIST 211 as a Humanities Gen Ed course. Marjorie Allison seconded. The vote was ten in favor. The committee agreed that the course should assess Goal 1, but there was disagreement about the second goal to be assessed. Magdelyn Helwig and Marjorie Allison wondered why Goal 2 was not requested. Keva Steadman stated that she sees Goal 5 as a good fit, but John Miller and Magdelyn Helwig wondered whether that would be appropriate if the class is not Multicultural. Rumen Dimitrov moved to assign Goals 1 and 5 for HIST 211 assessment. Marjorie Allison seconded. The vote was six in favor, one opposed, with one abstention.
3. Report from sub-committee on general education structure at WIU—Marjorie Allison, PK Babu, Joanne Sellen, and Magdelyn Helwig reported that they had met to discuss the approach for gathering information. The first step will be to gather information on WIU’s benchmark institutions. Rumen Dimitrov asked whether a timeline has been established, specifically in terms of when faculty input will be sought. The committee explained that no official timeline has been created, though they did discuss the fact that this was likely a multi-year effort.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**: N/A

**Motion:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

CGE will next convene at 3:30 PM on Thursday, November 20th in Horrabin 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Magdelyn Helwig (CGE Vice-Chair and acting Secretary)