

General Education Council Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018
3:30pm, JCK 880

Attendees: Cavitt (Chair), Allsup, Booth, Erhart, Farris, Gonzales, Haider, Hamilton, Hanks, Hindson, Passty, Peeler, Shah, Supancic, Vacaflores Rivero, and Wilson

Absent: Lane, Chen, Russian, Benton, Bondoc

Guests: Micky Autrey, David Lemke, Heather Galloway, Peter Tschirhart

Welcome and introductions were made. Cavitt acknowledged the passing of Dr. Matthew Eichler, who was a member of the GEC in the Fall 2017 semester. Council members observed a moment of silence in his honor.

Cavitt began the meeting by stating her expectations for the GEC members as well as the guest speakers. She stated that: 1) the Council would represent Texas Law and SACS Accreditation rules as they apply to Core Curriculum, 2) the core needs to have academic rigor and depth, and 3) as we shape the academic priorities for our university and intellectual foundation for our students, we have to keep in mind what is best for all of our students. She also discussed council procedures: 1) guest presentations would be limited in time (approximately 15-20 minutes), 2) council deliberations will be uninterrupted by guests unless they are called on for questions or clarification, and 3) guests will be asked to clarify and explain component area questions on the General Education form for better understanding by the Council.

The minutes of November 27, 2017, were presented for approval. Passty moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Hindson. The motion passed unanimously.

Revisions of the BIO 1321 proposal were presented for approval. Several edits were suggested to Dr. Lemke by GEC members. Proposal to approve the course was passed with planned revisions by Lemke.

Cavitt reviewed the Fall 2017 discussion regarding the Civil Engineering request to expand the General Core Curriculum Foundational Component Area Option 090 in order to lower SCH prior to submission for approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in May, 2018. Micky Autrey provided a timeline for approving this proposal, stating that it would need to be sent prior to spring break. Concerns about the “restrictive core” and the large number of hours in the CE degree program as compared to other Texas CE programs were discussed. Some members discussed obtaining a proposal from CE before determining if the general education area option 090 needed to be expanded. Cavitt asked each member to discuss what additional information was needed prior to considering Civil Engineering’s request to expand the Area Option 090. Members asked for more information from CE, numbers of students impacted, and what Deans’ have discussed about updates to the 135 hour requirements prior to voting.

Dr. Cavitt wrapped up the discussion with 3 areas for consideration at future meetings:

1. GEC needs more information/proposal from Civil Engineering
2. Consideration of revisiting the courses in our General Education Core Curriculum

3. More courses will be proposed in coming weeks

Next planned meeting will be February 12, 2018. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.