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General Studies

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October 2020 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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General Studies Council Minutes
October 1, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room-via Zoom

Present: Sri Seshadri, Sherri Harms, Jeong Hoon Choi, Miechelle McKelvey, Nita Unruh, Doug Tillman, Rebecca Umland, Jeff Wells, Joan Blauwkamp, Jeremy Dillon, Joel Berrier, Rochelle Reeves, Lisa Neal, Aaron Estes, Beth Hinga, Jessie Bialas, Mark Ellis, Greg Brown, Joel Cardenas

Absent: Tim Farrell

Guests: Ralph Hanson, George Lawson, Krista Forrest, Amanda Sladek, Amy Rundstrom, Jim Vaux

I. Call to order: Brown called the meeting to order.

- 1. Approve Agenda:** Unruh/McKelvey moved to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.
- 2. Minutes from September 3, 2020 meeting (approved via email)**

* Please notes, the GSC Director did not ask for abstentions from the votes, so only yes/no votes were recorded

II. Brief comments from New GS Director

1. Brown thanked Bridges, Blauwkamp, and the council for all their hard work. Brown stated that the goal is to get the new General Studies program out to campus and that the council needs to figure out LOPER 1. He also wants the council to develop an identity for the General Studies program and communicate with their colleagues why it is so important. Brown stated that he talked to Dr. Bicak about getting either a polo or tumbler for the council members that has "General Studies Council" on it and that Dr. Bicak was supportive of this idea. Brown stated that revising the governance document will need to happen in the near future. Brown also stated that the General Studies program is 3 years overdue for an APR and that it will need to have one sometime in the not-too-far-distant future.

III. Forming LOPER 1 - First Year Seminar task force:

1. Brown stated that he wants to create a task force to determine what the course would look like. He would like volunteers from the council to meet outside of normal monthly meeting to discuss how to develop the class. He asked for those from the council who want to volunteer to email him by noon tomorrow. Brown also asked for Estes and Rundstrom to attend the meetings as well.

IV. Special Circumstances Program Changes - Lisa Neal

Neal stated that Darveau is requesting an exemption to the 31 max hours in General Studies to allow the Chemistry program to require 33 GS hours. With only 5 rather than 7 hours in program-specified requirements, the program proposed is within the spirit of the cap of 38 hours across both GS and program-specified requirements. Dillon noted that he had previously supported no upper limit on the number of GS hours. Blauwkamp stated that the Council debated this issue last year and set 31 as the maximum for GS hours and allowed up to 7 hours of program-specified requirements, because having no maximum at all would allow programs to continue to require 45 or more hours of General Studies.

Neal feels that accepting this solution at least provisionally is necessary until some double-counting courses are approved.

Blauwkamp/Berrier moved to allow programs to go a little over the 31 hour maximum, so long as their requirements including the program-specified requirements stay under 38 hours combined.

Wells asked if this is permanent approval. McKelvey feels this should be provisional, not permanent. Unruh agreed.

Blauwkamp made an addendum to her motion to add provisional. When double counting courses are added, revise General Studies total hours to be a range.

Neal wanted to note this is for 2021-2022 and suggested a one-year provisional approval.

Blauwkamp amended her motion to be a one year provisional, then change General Studies program hours to a range of 30-33.

Brown asked if the Council changed the program to 30-33 hours would it have to go back to campus to be re-voted as that is not what was approved last year? Blauwkamp clarified that the program approved last year allowed departments to require up to 7 additional credit hours as "program-specified requirements" because the Council was mindful that many programs with external accreditation needed to be able to require a second course in particular categories - for example, Chemistry needs to require a second natural science course.

Blauwkamp/Berrier moved to allow programs to submit program changes with a range of General Studies hours required from 30 up to a maximum of 38, so long as the combined hours with program-specified requirements does not exceed 38 hours.

Yes-11/No-1 Motion Carried

V. Ongoing Business: Transition to LOPERs GS Program

1. Reminder:

The Council approved a suggested timeline for course submissions. Since this will be a busy year, we want to try to manage the workload in reviewing new course submissions and applications to gain final approval for the courses that we provisionally approved for the LOPERs Program in April.

The suggested timeline is below:

- October: Courses proposed to meet LOPERs 2, 3, and 4
- November: Courses proposed to meet LOPERs 5 and 6
- December: Courses proposed to meet LOPERs 7 and 8
- January: Courses proposed to meet LOPERs 9, 10, or 11. (Including stand-alone courses for 9 and 10; courses proposed to double-count for 9 or 10 plus one of the broad knowledge categories (5-8) are requested to follow the schedule above.)
- February: Courses proposed to meet LOPER 1 (More guidance will be forthcoming on courses for this category)
- March: Last chance proposals to be considered this academic year (plus revised resubmissions)

Departments that are proposing to add a new course to the LOPERs Program, to propose a course to double-count for a broad knowledge category plus LOPER 9 or LOPER 10, or to move to a different LOPER category must follow the course submission instructions - all three parts.

Departments that are applying to gain final approval for a course that has been provisionally approved in a LOPER category need only submit a syllabus of record (Part 3), plus the departmental assurance statements. Provisional approval expires at the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

2. Review of previously reviewed syllabi that were returned for revision

- LOPER 8
 - BIOL 103:
Blauwkamp/Reeves moved to grant final approval.
Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried

3. Review and final approval for provisionally-approved courses (Syllabi of record)

- LOPER 3
 - SPCH 100:
Blauwkamp/Wells moved to grant final approval.
Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried
- LOPER 4
 - CYBR 101, CYBR 102, CYBR 103, CYBR 306:
Blauwkamp/Seshadri moved to grant final approval.

Neal stated that CYBER that there were a few issues with the syllabus.

Berrier stated he was not able to find a functional link to their department policies. Harms stated it is on their website and put the link in the Zoom chat. <https://www.unk.edu/academics/csit/files/documents/pdf/SI-20140205-AcademicIntegrityPolicy.pdf>

Blauwkamp rescinded her motion.

Blauwkamp/Berrier moved to approve the course pending the correction of the link to the academic integrity document and the correction to syllabus for pre-requisites to match catalog.

Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried

- MATH 102, MATH 103 (Incorrect prerequisite per Neal) MATH 106, MATH 120, MATH 123 (Incorrect prerequisite and no Diversity and Inclusion Policy statement per Neal), MATH 230, STAT 235, STAT 241:

Neal stated that there were a few issues with some of the syllabi and asked if the COVID statement required on the syllabi. Blauwkamp stated not at this time is this required.

Blauwkamp/Berrier moved to approve the listed MATH and STAT courses to meet LOPER 4, pending inclusion of Diversity & Inclusion Policy statement for the MATH 123 syllabus and correction of prerequisite to match catalog.

Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried

- MGT 233:
Seshadri/Blauwkamp moved to grant final approval.
Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried

- PSY 250:
Unruh/Tillman moved to grant final approval.

Blauwkamp stated that the syllabus has the old purpose statement and thinks that the syllabus does not explain how it will meet the learning outcomes. Umland agreed. Blauwkamp asked if the motion could be rescinded and then ask for corrections. Tillman agreed.

Unruh rescinded her motion.

Blauwkamp/Umland moved to have PSY 250 revise & resubmit the syllabus to correct the old purpose statement for General Studies and to explain how the course meets learning outcomes.

Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried

Dillon stated that the council should give them some feedback on how to better detail how they will meet learning outcomes.

▪ LOPER 6

- FREN 200, FREN 201, GERM 200, GERM 201, GERM 205, SPAN 200, SPAN 201, SPAN 205:

Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to have all the listed Modern Language courses syllabi review and rewrite as they need to do the full application process to apply to double count for LOPER 10 as well as LOPER 6 and provide departmental assurance statements and explain in detail how the courses are meeting the specified learning outcomes.

Hinga is concerned about statement on assessment. Blauwkamp stated departments will have to meet the assessment guidelines or they cannot be in the General Studies program. Hinga stated things were in odd places in the syllabus.

Blauwkamp stated that she did not see all documents and that the additional documents that Brown showed on the screen are explaining the learning outcomes but it but does not on the syllabi. Hinga stated it needs to be in the syllabi. Unruh stated that students need to be able to understand the class by looking at the syllabus.

Blauwkamp rescinded her motion.

Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to have the syllabi revised to include explanations of how the course is meeting the LOPER 6 and 10 objectives and the checklist needs to be submitted.

Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried

▪ LOPER 7

- CJUS 101:

Blauwkamp/Dillon moved to grant final approval.

Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried

- PSY 203, PSY 230:

Blauwkamp/Wells moved to grant final approval for PSY 203 and 230 in LOPER 7, pending correction of old General Studies purpose statement in the PSY 203 syllabus.

Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried

▪ LOPER 8

- GEOG 103, BIOL 105:

Blauwkamp/Wells moved to grant final approval.

Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried

▪ LOPER 9

- CJUS 102:

Blauwkamp/Tillman moved to grant final approval.

Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried

▪ LOPER 11

- PE 150:

Neal stated that she did not see academic integrity statement.

Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to grant final approval.

Yes-12/No-0 Motion Carried

- PSY 231:

Unruh stated they need to look at the dimensions of wellness because they are not doing so in the syllabus.

Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to grant final approval for PSY 231 for LOPER 11, pending correction of old program statement for General Studies and inclusion of all 8 dimensions of wellness in course contents.

Yes-11/No-0 Motion Carried

4. **Updating the GS Governance document** (due to CAS merger and other changes - delayed until LOPER 1 and other changes to GS Program are finalized) Brown would like to delay updating the General Studies Governance document at this time.
5. **Assessment of LOPERs GS Program** (delayed until LOPER 1 and other changes to GS Program are finalized) Brown would like to delay updating the Assessment of LOPERs General Studies Program at this time.

VI. New Business:

1. New course proposals:

▪ **LOPER 3**

• **ITEC 290:**

Blauwkamp stated that she has a big concern approving this course. She feels that if the council approves this course then any department that is does presentations could have a LOPER 3 course. Blauwkamp stated that this is not a course that she thinks the program should have and it is not an appropriate academic discipline.

Seshadri disagreed and stated that so much contemporary communications happens through technology so a class that teaches students effective communications using technology is beneficial. He also stated that he thinks that the department in its application has shown that they are meeting the learning outcomes for LOPER 3.

Blauwkamp stated that the course was not given provisional approval by the Council last spring because the assessment results showed that ITEC 290 was not as effective at meeting the learning outcomes compared to SPCH 100.

Seshadri stated that he thinks the new application shows how the course can meet the learning outcomes for LOPER 3.

Brown asked if anyone wants to make a motion to approve? For new course approvals, after the first Council vote, the next step in the progress is for the course to go out to campus for a two-week comment period."

Seshadri/Choi moved the approve the course. **Yes- 6/No-5**

Wells stated that depending on which governance document the Council is operating off then the course may not be approved as there is not support from CAS.

Unruh stated that maybe the new governance document needs approved first and that the Council should table approving any new courses until the governance document is approved. McKelvey stated that the council should at least decide on how the voting will work before discussing approving new courses.

Brown stated that the new courses will be tabled and the agenda for the next meeting will look at the voting procedure for the governance document. Blauwkamp stated there are a lot of steps to approve the governance document. Unruh stated that the council needs to decide how the voting will work.

Ellis stated that he and Brown would meet with Dr. Bicak to come up with a solution. Brown stated that after he and Ellis meet with Dr. Bicak he would email the Council.

- LOPER 4
 - MATH 115
- LOPER 7
 - FAMS 151, FAMS 351
- LOPER 10
 - FAMS 151
 - MGT 230
 - CJUS 370, CJUS 380
 - TE 100

VII. Adjournment: 5:02 pm

McKelvey/Unruh moved to adjourn the meeting.