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General Studies

1-14-2021

January 2021 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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General Studies Council Minutes
January 14, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.
Warner Hall, Warner Conference Room-via Zoom
**** Approved via Email ****

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

Guests: Amy Rundstrom

Absent: Micchelle McKelvey

- I. **Call to order:** Brown called the meeting to order.
 - **Approve Agenda:** Wells/Blauwkamp moved to approve the agenda. **Motion Carried**
 - **Minutes from December 3, 2020 meeting (approved via email)**
- II. **Old Business (Open Items):**
 - Review of previously reviewed syllabi that were returned for revision.
 - LOPER 5
 - ART 377 (motion was to have the ART 377 syllabus rewritten to remove the old General Studies objectives and clarify the explanation of how the class meets the LOPER 5 objectives and resubmit.)
 - Blauwkamp stated the syllabus still has old General Studies objectives. Farrell stated part two has the outcomes, but they are not in syllabus.
 - Blauwkamp/Reeves moved to approve ART 377 for LOPER 5 pending replacement of the old General Studies purpose statement (page 5) and inclusion of the explanation of how class assignments meet the LOPER 5 criteria from part two of the application in the course syllabus. **Yes: 10/No: 0 Motion Carried**
 - LOPER 7
 - ECON 100 (the motion was to have ECON 100 and ECON 270 rewrite and resubmit the syllabi to include objective “d” for ECON 100 and show the tie to the learning objectives for ECON 100 and ECON 270.)
 - ECON 270
 - Blauwkamp stated other than addition of “d” the syllabi are the same as last time. The syllabi do not identify assignments or explain how they will meet the LOPER objectives. Seshadri stated the syllabi have the same structure as ECON 271. Dillon stated he thinks they are okay. Blauwkamp reviewed the syllabi again and

did find the section “Course Grades” shows how it meets the objectives.

- Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to give final approval for ECON 100 and ECON 270 for LOPER 7. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- Approved in the previous GSC meeting for dissemination to campus for comment prior to vote for final approval (no comments on the General Studies for Faculty Discussion Board
 - GEOG 106, which has been approved for LOPER 7 and proposed as a LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - MUS 107 which has been approved for LOPER 5 (Visual and Performing Arts) and proposed as a LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - ART 375 proposed for LOPER 5 (Visual and Performing Arts) & LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - ENG 253 which has been approved for LOPER 6 (Humanities) and proposed as a LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - ENG 260 which has been approved for LOPER 6 (Humanities) and proposed as a LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - PSCI 280H which has been approved for LOPER 7 (Social Sciences) and proposed for LOPER 9 (Civic Competency and Engagement).
 - PSCI 140 which has been approved for LOPER 9 (Civic Competency and Engagement) and proposed for LOPER 7 (Social Sciences).
 - PSCI 110 which has been approved for LOPER 7 (Social Sciences) and proposed for LOPER 9 (Civic Competency and Engagement).
 - HIST 215 which has been approved for LOPER 6 (Humanities) and proposed as a LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - HIST 230 proposed for LOPER 6 (Humanities) & LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - HIST 231 which has been proposed for LOPER 6 (Humanities) & LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - SPCH 154 which has been proposed for LOPER 6 (Humanities) & LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - FREN 205 which has been proposed for LOPER 6 (Humanities) & LOPER 10 (Respect for Human Diversity) Course.
 - JMC 100 which has been proposed for LOPER 9 (Civic Competency and Engagement).
 - Blauwkamp/Wells moved to give final approval to the courses out for campus comment (no comments/objections were submitted) for GEOG 106, MUS 107, ART 375, ENG 253, ENG 260, PSCI 280H, PSCI 140, PSCI 110, HIST 215, HIST 230, HIST 231, SPCH 154, FREN 205, JMC 100. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- Course proposals (review for final approval):
- LOPER 5

- MUS 101 (and new for LOPER 10)
 - Blauwkamp/Berrier moved to give final approval to MUS 101 for LOPER 5 and send to campus for LOPER 10.
 - Unruh stated the syllabus is missing the objectives and the catalog description does not match.
 - Blauwkamp withdrew her motion.
 - Unruh/Seshadri moved to have MUS 101 revise and resubmit to address the assessment of LOPER 5 A, C and LOPER 10 A, B and to correct the catalog description and add the program objectives for General Studies. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

- LOPER 7
 - PSCI 168 (and new for LOPER 10)
 - Blauwkamp/Reeves moved to give final approval to PSCI 168 for LOPER 7 and send to campus for LOPER 10.
Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried

- LOPER 8
 - BIOL 106
 - Blauwkamp/Wells moved to approve BIOL 106 for LOPER 8 pending the addition of university academic integrity statement and the link to the syllabus. **Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried**
 - PHYS 276/276L
 - Wells/Berrier moved to approve PHYS 276/276L for LOPER 8.
Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried

- LOPER 9
 - PHIL 105
 - Blauwkamp/Seshadri moved to have PHIL 105 revise and resubmit to explain in the syllabus how the course meets the LOPER 9 learning outcomes, rather than just link to the old DIP objectives with "also meets" and add UNK diversity & inclusion policy statement (COVID policy also if taught in Spring 2021).
Yes: 11/No: 0 Motion Carried

- LOPER 11
 - FIN 160
 - Unruh stated she did not see how the syllabus met all eight dimensions and it is not matching the catalog description. Blauwkamp stated the syllabus has the old General Studies purpose statements.
 - Blauwkamp/Unruh moved to have FIN 160 revise & resubmit to explain how the LOPER 11 learning outcomes are being met, especially item A, the other seven dimensions of wellness other

than financial wellness; remove the old General Studies course objectives; and correct assignment weighting to equal 100% and match to catalog description. **Yes: 12/No: 0 Motion Carried**

III. New Business:

- First Year Seminar / LOPER 1 Proposal
 - Blauwkamp asked for a report from Ellis about the discussion at the Dean's Council and how the logistical issues can be addressed. Ellis stated he has nothing to report as it did not come up in the meeting due to more pressing matters. He stated Dr. Bicak wants LOPER 1 ready for Fall 2021. Ellis also stated Dr. Bicak recognizes the Chairs in the College of Arts & Sciences have concerns but wants LOPER 1 ready for Fall 2021. Dillon asked how does LOPER 1 will fit into workload? Ellis stated it should not be an issue. He said if he were a Department Chair he would give faculty three sections of LOPER 1 to teach. Blauwkamp stated she thinks if the Council tells the faculty they must teach three sections of LOPER 1 then there is not incentive to faculty as there is so much more work as it is team taught. She also feels it is a logistical issue.
 - Neal stated course Topics do not need to be identified when the course is submitted to Academic Affairs. She stated it needs to have the subject and course number and course topics are approved by the General Studies Council not Academic Affairs.
 - Blauwkamp stated there is still not a lot of time to get the courses ready as students register for classes the beginning of April. Neal stated the LOPER 1 Seminar is for first time freshman and they do not register for classes until the end of May. Ellis stated the Council needs to give the LOPER 1 Seminar a try and they will not know that it does not work unless they try to make it work.
 - Dillon asked if the Council could do a parallel track. He suggested having LOPER 1 and Portal courses for Fall 2021 and the first year allow students to take one or the other as there may only be a handful LOPER 1 courses ready to go, then at the end of the year the portal courses go away as an option for LOPER 1. Neal stated the 188 courses will not go away for a couple of years as current students' catalogs require 188. She also stated Dr. Bicak does want LOPER 1 to be ready for Fall 2021.
 - Blauwkamp stated she does not want to rush the roll out of the LOPER 1 Seminar. Unruh stated Kinesiology and Sport Sciences has been talking about how to make LOPER 1 work since October.
 - Brown stated he does not think the workload should be an issue if a faculty member is teaching three sections because they are only preparing one third of the work as they would be teaching the same section three times. He stated he feels the time requirement would not be affected. Dillon stated he is not concerned with workload he is concerned there will not be enough courses for Fall 2021.
 - Umland stated that she thinks getting the course out by Fall 2021 is too fast. Unruh stated the Council was able to create an entire, new General

Studies Program in a year. She feels the Council should be able to put out a LOPER 1 course by Fall 2021. She stated the Council needs to give it a shot and not just say “no it won’t work.” Blauwkamp noted that the Council was able to do that because so many existing GS courses could be grandfathered into the new program, rather than needing new classes to be created in a matter of weeks.

- Ellis stated it is possible to use Dillon’s plan as a backup, but they need to try to get enough courses ready to go for Fall 2021. He also stated Dr. Bicak does not support continuing using 188 courses and he wants LOPER 1 out for Fall 2021.
- Neal stated the three departments are not required to be identified by February 21st but a LOPER 1 course would need to be proposed by that date.
- Seshadri asked how the proposal would work for departments with multiple prefixes. Neal stated that each prefix would need to create its own -126 course, and credit hours would work the way they do now: whichever prefix was used to teach the seminar, that unit within the department would get the credit hours. Unruh stated Kinesiology and Sport Sciences has two prefixes and the department would work with two different departments. Brown stated keeping LOPER 1 three different departments keeps it multiple disciplinary.
- Dillon stated there will need to be flexibility when it comes to approving courses if they need to be online by Fall 2021.
- Brown asked if there are any changes that need made to the LOPER 1 proposal.
- Blauwkamp discussed the CAS chairs' concern with requiring faculty to include a focus on the personal and professional development of first-year students. Rundstrom stated Academic Advising and Career Development can help. She stated she will do an inventory of what Academic Advising and Career Development can do to help with the LOPER 1 seminar. Brown asked if the Library could do an inventory of their services as well. Reeves stated they will, and faculty can let the Library know their other needs. She also stated the Library can meet one on one with students if needed.
- Brown shared the LOPER 1 proposal and asked if there is anything that needs changed. He stated he thinks the Council should put a cap on the number of students per LOPER 1 course.
- Dillon asked if anyone had any thoughts about a student failing one section and they then fail the whole course. Blauwkamp stated if they fail one section they fail the whole seminar.
- Dillon asked if it would be easier to have thirty one-credit hour courses and let the students choose three. Blauwkamp stated she did not agree with the idea. Dillon stated he is concerned there will not be enough courses ready for Fall 2021. Ellis stated they need to give it a try.
- Unruh/Reeves moved to approve the LOPER 1 proposal.

Yes: 9/No: 3 Motion Carried

- Brown stated he will send the LOPER 1 proposal out to campus with the timeline to get the courses approved. Blauwkamp asked Brown to put in the email to campus that the Library and Academic Advising & Career Development will put together an inventory list of what they can do to help with the LOPER 1 courses. Brown agreed.
- a. Items suspended pending completion of course review & approval.
- Course proposals (new): Nothing submitted
 - Assessment and GS Program:
 - Review / revision of governance document (GSC Governance)

IV. Adjournment: Berrier/Unruh moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2021 @ 3:30 pm via Zoom