

University of Nebraska at Kearney

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General Studies

10-6-2022

October 2022 General Studies Council Minutes

University of Nebraska at Kearney General Studies Council

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**General Studies Council
October 6, 2022 @ 3:30 pm
Warner Conference Room**

The Council meeting was not held due to No Quorum – Unfortunately, several Council members were out of town for conferences or training. Sound system was not working, so Zoom was not an option.

Present: Noelle Bohaty, Sheri Harms, Tim Obermier, Melissa Wuellner, Jeremy Dillon, Joan Blauwkamp, Joel Berrier, Greg Brown, Mark Ellis, Beth Hinga, Lisa Neal, Jessie Bialas, Joel Cardenas, Tristan Larson

Guests: Ralph Hanson, Jim Vaux, Nanette Hogg, Bree Dority

Absent: Rebecca Umland, Sri Seshadri, Miechelle McKelvey, Nita Unruh, Toni Hill, Rochelle Reeves, Amy Rundstrom

Items discussed:

New student representative to the General Studies Council Tristan Larson was introduced and welcomed.

General Studies 2022 Spring assessment report:

Director Brown asked for the Council to hold by email a motion and vote to approve sending the report out to campus, rather than waiting until November's meeting to act on the report. If further discussion of the report is needed before dissemination to campus, a Council member could request a Zoom meeting rather than an email vote.

After the report is sent out to campus, the plan is to post it in a discussion forum on the General Studies for Faculty Canvas organization to allow campus comment on the report. Director Brown also plans to schedule a Zoom/in-person campus forum to discuss the results and assessment process.

Using Canvas to collect assessment data:

Based on consultations with Don Ray and Karen Premer, it seems clear that Canvas cannot be used to collect assessment data under our current assessment plan in which each instructor selects which assignment(s) will be used to assess student learning on each objective. Without a common assessment assignment for all courses in a LOPER category, to use Canvas would be more work for the faculty member than completing the Excel spreadsheets.

New Business – item 2: GS credit for previous military / work experience:

Director Brown stated Dr. Majocho would like the Council to consider if students might earn credit for 'life experience', which a number of colleges and universities are beginning to do.

Hinga noted that there may be accreditation issues, depending on how the credit is awarded. One way such programs work is to require the student to create a portfolio that documents and presents evidence of college-level learning and explains why they think the experience merits academic credit.

There is no formal proposal from the SVC; she is simply asking the Council to discuss the possibility.

Other discussion items:

- Director Brown suggested that Togetherall – the new UNK peer-to-peer mental health online support network – might be a resource for LOPER 1 instructors who wanted to do more to address first-year students’ mental health needs.
- Director Brown asked the Council to consider how excellence in GS teaching awards might work – how many awards, how allocated across colleges, where and when given?

Next meeting: November 3, 2022 @ 3:30 pm-Warner Conference Room, Warner Hall or via Zoom