

General Education Committee
October 29, 2013
1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Mason Hall, D101

Attending: Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Kelly Dunne, Kim Eby, Doug Eymann, Marcy Glover, Stephanie Hazel, Peter Winant,

Out: Rick Diecchio, Becky Ericson, Mack Holt, Peter Kleine, Roger Paden, Frank Allen Philpot, Mark Uhen, Carol Urban

Check In

Janette will be hosting a Town Hall meeting to discuss our proposed changes to the general education program.

She has met with various members of the Faculty Senate and the following groups will need to approve our changes:

- Name change – Faculty Senate
- Capstone – AP Committee

Minutes Approval

The minutes were approved without amendment.

Bioengineering Proposal

This proposal has been discussed online via Blackboard. After discussion, the committee has denied approval to this proposal. However, until we finalize the discussion on double counting (which if approved would negate the reason for submitting the proposal) Marcy has been asked to delay notification to the department. The committee feels that any student in this program is essentially pursuing a double major and university policy is very clear that students are responsible for all requirements as they pertain to the two different programs. The committee does not believe there is justification for waiving a category of general education and to do so would not be equitable to other double majors.

Capstone Experience/Synthesis Discussion

For many students, replacing synthesis with capstone could free up 3-6 credits for students in certain programs that could be used to pursue minors or certificate programs. Currently at least a third of all majors have capstone courses as their synthesis course.

We need to create minimum requirements and then let the department determine how they students will meet the requirement.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Change synthesis to capstone experience – APPROVED

Double Counting Categories

When the current general education curriculum was created, it was intended that each category was discrete and double dipping between categories was not allowed. Double dipping with major or college level general education requirements however, were allowed. Over the years, an increasing number of programs have developed (or been assigned by outside accrediting bodies) such heavy credit requirements for their majors, there is no room for elective credit or error. It has been proposed to allow students to double dip between general education categories, for no more than a total of 6 credit hours within their academic career.

Departments would have to submit courses that they would like to count for a second category, addressing the learning outcomes in the new category. For a course to count in two areas, it must address the learning outcomes of both. **THIS DISCUSSION WAS TABLED AND MOVED TO BLACKBOARD**

University Seminars proposal

Jeannie Brown Leonard and Jackie Nash have submitted a proposal that all Mason students take at least one University course while at Mason. University courses are transition courses at various levels to help student

acclimate to the university environment, future students, careers, etc. After discussion, the committee has voted no at this time. Perhaps in the future if a freshmen experience course/seminar is created, perhaps that would be an ideal required course.

Pathways

NOT DISCUSSED