

General Education Committee  
November 21, 2013  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Mason Hall, D101

**Attending:** Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Rick Diecchio, Kim Eby, Becky Ericson, Doug Eymann, Marcy Glover, Stephanie Hazel, Mack Holt, Roger Paden, Frank Allen Philpot, Peter Winant

**Out:** Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Kelly Dunne, Peter Kleine, Mark Uhen, Carol Urban

#### Check In

The Townhall session was well attended and our proposed changes have met with favorable responses. There are concerns about double dipping and the possible impacts on certain categories/disciplines. Janette has met with the AP – Faculty Senate committee as well as the department Chairs to discuss the possible changes, again with favorable response. The units are excited to have input in the process.

#### Minutes Approval

The minutes were approved without amendment.

#### Synthesis - Capstone Experience

The conversation centered on questions and concerns regarding the minimum requirements for a capstone course.

Issue 1: are we concerned about the loss of interdisciplinary collaboration? Many faculty like that synthesis forces students to look at topics/disciplines outside their major.

If it is important to the unit, they will work it into their course.

Issue 2: should there be common characteristics for all capstone courses? If so, what?

Issue 3: where does critical thinking go?

#### Common Characteristics

- Solve a problem
- Restricted class size
- Culminating experience (occur in last year of study)
- Formal presentation
- Consolidation of practical skills and knowledge learned throughout their undergraduate experience
- By its nature, capstone should be integrative of their Mason experience (Mason core, their major, the capstone, minors, etc)

Kim and Doug have offered to draft the proposal for the Faculty Senate to change the requirement to the Capstone Experience. Items that might be included are: minimum class size, last year of their studies, should be a culminating experience. The committee is leaving it up to the department to decide how to fulfill the requirement.

#### Double Counting Categories

In a continuation of the October meeting, this would be limited to 6 credit hours and categories restricted from double counting would be: Quantitative Reasoning, Oral Communication, Written Communication (lower and upper level) and Information Technology (still under consideration).

Motion: To allow students to double count up to six credit hours in the general education program. Excluded categories are QR, OC, WC.

Yes: 8 No: 3 Abstain: 2 **APPROVED**

CLAS 370

The committee has requested additional information before they can determine if this courses meets the Literature learning outcomes.