

General Education Committee  
December 5, 2013  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Mason Hall, D101

**Attending:** Janette Muir (Chair), Dominique Banville, Rick Diecchio, Kelly Dunne, Kim Eby, Becky Ericson, Doug Eyman, Marcy Glover, Mack Holt, Peter Kleine, Roger Paden, Frank Allen Philpot

**Out:** Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Stephanie Hazel, Mark Uhen, Carol Urban, Peter Winant

**Guests:** Hermione Pickett, Linda Lane Sheridan

Debrief Faculty Senate meeting

Changing the name to the Mason Core was approved by the Faculty Senate. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, Janette was not able to do her full presentation to the Senate and there was confusion about the transition from synthesis to capstone. We will need to present more information about the change, including proof that this is considered a best practice/trend at the National level. The motion has been tabled until the February Faculty Senate meeting, scheduled for February 5, 2014. The first meeting of the spring semester may be focused on addressing the concerns of the Senate in preparation for that meeting.

One of the FS concerns is that this is not budget neutral; from a university perspective it is, but not necessarily at the departmental level.

Introduction of New Member

Peter Kleine is the new student representative.

Capstone Proposal (Doug and Kim)

The committee spent time revising the language of the proposal. It was decided to change critical thinking from a requirement to a suggestion (it might work in this course). Suggested changes to the language include:

- Minimum 3 credit course, allowing units to use internships or other types of experiential learning to fulfill the requirement
- Each major or program will designate a capstone experience as the final element of the Mason Core
- Students must have completed a minimum of 85 credit hours before they take this course
- Classroom size/enrollment should not exceed 35 students in a section
- This course may be used for the institutional assessment of critical thinking.

**CLAS 370 – LITERATURE MORE INFORMATION NEEDED**

The subcommittee has requested additional information before they can continue their deliberations. They would like to copies of the mid-term and/or paper topics. They are concerned that this is more a history of literature, rather than a critical analysis of literature course. Marcy will request.

**SPAN 385 – SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES DENIED**

After deliberation, the subcommittee is not recommending this course for approval. There is no evidence of reading on social science theory or concepts.

Categories to discuss in Spring 2014

Do we want to rethink the IT category and remove the Ethics component or move it to another category? Global Understanding – we know this category needs revision, but now that the strategic plan has been approved, how will that impact this category? Pathways – February?