**General Education Committee Meeting**  
**January 27, 2017**

**Attendees:** Lisa Covert, Renling Jin, Shawn Morrison (Chair), Gia Quesada, Nathaniel Walker; Lynne Ford  
**Guests:** Jonathan Neufeld (Philosophy), Bryan Ganaway (Honors), Liz Martinez (Linguistics), Joe Kelly (Irish and Irish American Studies), Irina Erman (Russian Studies)  
Recorded by Kristen Ashworth

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<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion Points</th>
<th>Decision/Action Needed</th>
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<td>1. Call to order</td>
<td>The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>2. Approval of minutes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Committee approved minutes from the previous meeting (12/2/2016).</td>
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| 3. Review of Philosophy proposals | PHIL 210:  
- Committee asked a question about the assignments (i.e., two essays instead of one signature assignment).  
- Jonathan Neufeld stated that the second essay can serve as the single assignment.  
PHIL 298: Committee had no questions  
PHIL 282:  
- Committee asked about the wording in the form and syllabus (e.g., essay vs. paper) and whether students have to reference the text (if not, the assignment would not be gradable).  
- Jonathan Neufeld stated that essay and paper are the same thing and that he would adjust the wording. He also stated that the requirement for the reference will be made clear to students.  
PHIL 198: Committee had no questions | Jonathan Neufeld will edit the forms and syllabi for PHIL 210 and PHIL 282 and resubmit them. |
| 4. Review of Honors proposals | HONS 381: Committee had no questions  
HONS 382:  
- Committee asked about the theory being used for the key assessment, and Bryan Ganaway clarified to the committee’s satisfaction.  
- Committee asked about Bryan’s confidence in covering Special Topics courses. Bryan clarified that the department did a good job of explaining the General Education requirements to course instructors. | N/A |
| 5. Review of Russian Studies proposals | Irena Erman provided a brief explanation of the following two courses.  
RUST 300: Committee had no questions  
RUST 250: Committee had no questions | N/A |
| 6. Review of Irish and Irish American Studies Proposals | IIAS 304:  
- Committee raised concerns with the syllabus wording that includes Social Science, missing justification for a 300-level course, incorrect title on the form, unclear Humanities SLOs in syllabus.  
- Joe Kelly noted corrections that need to be made.  
IIAS 201:  
- Committed raised concerns that the syllabus was not clear in terms of the required SLOs and signature assignments. Additionally, syllabus listed Social Science SLOs rather than Humanities. | Joe Kelly will make the needed corrections and resubmit the forms and syllabi. |
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| 7. Review of Linguistics proposals | LING 290:  
- Committee raised concerns with the signature assignment and questioned which assignment would be used. Committee was also concerned with the example assignment (i.e., explaining a concept, such as vowel shifts, rather than applying a model or theory – this does not match the SLO).  
- Liz Martinez stated that a “vowel shift” is a linguistics theory, but the committee still questioned whether this was a broad enough social science theory.  
- Committee determined that the assignment, as stated, was too specific to linguistics to meet the SLO.  
LING 260:  
- Committee raised concerns about the signature assignment relating more to Humanities than Social Science. | Liz Martinez will adjust the wording of the signature assignment for LING 260 and resubmit it. |
| 8. Review of Foreign Language proposals | FREN 250, LATN 250, and PORT 250  
- Shawn Morrison explained that 250 language courses are the combination of 201 and 202. They have the same SLOs and signature assignments.  
- Committee had no questions. | |
| 8. Foreign language alternative appeal case | Gia Quesada approved the appeal because the student was under the old program. Shawn raised the point that, since we no longer have a General Education freeze, that we will no longer have a foreign language alternatives freeze. | Appeal approved prior to meeting. |
| 9. Other issues related to General Education courses | Gia raised the point that removing the freeze adds concern about Special Topics courses, because they will be difficult to trace as they potentially change over time. We should check on the total number of Special Topics courses. Lynne Ford reminded the committee that they can put forward a proposal to remove all Special Topics courses from General Education. Gia also raised concerns about keeping up with all General Education courses as more are added. Should departments with more classes have to provide more graders? Should we begin a larger conversation related to General Education? We could write a white paper to provide to next year’s committee. Moving forward, since the Senate voted against the freeze, we will need to set up a cycle for reviewing courses. | Committee will find Special Topics courses that have counted as General Education for the past two years, pull the syllabi and signature assignments, and review them to make sure they remain in compliance with General Education requirements. The committee will share these data with the Senate to begin the conversation about the purpose of General Education. |
| 10. Official vote on course proposals | Committee voted unanimously in favor of the following General Education courses: - Foreign Language: FREN 250, LATN 250, PORT 250 - Social Science: HONS 382 - Humanities: RUST 300, RUST 250, HONS 381, PHIL 298, PHIL 198 Committee requested revisions for the following courses: - Social Science: LING 260, LING 290 - Humanities: IIAS 201, IIAS 304, PHIL 210, PHIL 282 |
| 11. Plan for the next set of courses for review | The English Dept. provided their justification for 300-level courses. | Committee will review the first half of English courses on 2/10/2017. |