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Undergraduate Council Minutes of Meeting February 26, 2019

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The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Undergraduate Council
Minutes of the Meeting
February 26, 2019

Leadership and Elected Members present: Chair Robert Mindrup, Vice Chair Anthony Welch, Past Chair Rachel Chen, Brian Ambroziak, Ken Baker, John Bell, Richard Bennett, Alison Buchan, Deb Chyka, Jamie Coble, Erin Darby, Kim Denton (by proxy Robert Mindrup), Joanne Devlin, Nadia Fomin, Beth Foster, Katie Kavanagh (by proxy Rachel Chen), Daniel Magilow, Chris Magra, Lindsay Mahony (by proxy Betsy Gullett), Christine Nattrass, Charlie Parker, Brad Vanderzanden (by proxy Richard Bennett), Amanda Warren (by proxy Ken Baker), and Angela Wozencroft.

Ex-Officio Members present: Monique Anderson, George Drinnon (represented by Betsy Gullett), Jeff Fairbrother, Timothy Hulsey (represented by Rebekah Page), Chris Lavan, Barbara Murphy.

Student Members present: (none)


Welcome and Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 3:47 pm by Robert Mindrup, Chair.

Committee Reports (See attached reports)

- Curriculum (Beth Foster)
  The Curriculum Committee presented an informational item regarding the Contemporary Issues and Solutions subcommittee, noting that this subcommittee will begin accepting and reviewing applications.
  - The subcommittee will focus initially on approving credit-bearing courses.
  - Once the subcommittee has experience reviewing applications for courses, they will develop a procedure to address zero-credit courses and other non-credit options.
  This item did not require approval by the Council.

- General Education (Barb Murphy)
  The General Education Committee presented informational items related to the Volunteer Core curriculum and implementation, including a presentation of the requirements for the new curriculum followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.
  This item did not require approval by the Council.

Adjournment: Robert Mindrup adjourned the meeting at 4:47 pm.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 3:40 pm in the Multipurpose Room of Frieson Black Cultural Center.

Approval of minutes: These minutes were certified correct via email on March 4, 2019.

Minutes submitted by: Molly Sullivan
Call to Order: A special meeting of the Curriculum Committee was held on February 12, 2019, in Scripps Convergence Lab Studio/Theater (402G CUEB). The meeting was called to order at 3:46 p.m. by Beth Foster, Chair.

Voting Members present: Beth Foster, Chair, Brian Ambroziak (by proxy Katherine Ambroziak), Deb Chyka, Chuck Collins, Kim Denton (by proxy Amanda Gandy, George Drinnon, Jeff Fairbrother, Chris Magra, Lindsay Mahony (by proxy George Drinnon), Christine Nattrass, Masood Parang (by proxy Margie Russell), Brad Vanderzanden, and Angela Wozencroft

Others present: Katherine Ambroziak, Monique Anderson, Monica Black, Betty Bradley, Alison Connor, R.J. Hinde, Chris Lavan, Roberta Lavin, John Stier, Christopher Stripling, Celena Tulloss, and Molly Sullivan

Business: The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the implementation of the Contemporary Issues and Solutions (CIS) graduation requirement that takes effect in fall 2019. There were no actionable items to address, but discussion focused on the application and approval process for both course and non-course options for fulfilling the CIS requirement. The consensus was that the CIS Subcommittee would focus first on soliciting and reviewing applications for courses that would fulfill this requirement, citing examples of existing courses that might be suitable. Once the Subcommittee has had the experience of reviewing and approving courses, they could then turn their attention to working out the details of approving zero-credit or non-course options. (Attached is the approved overview and learning outcomes for CIS along with the names of current Subcommittee members.)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: These minutes were certified correct via email on February 18, 2019

Minutes submitted by: Molly Sullivan

Contemporary Issues and Solutions

Overview

Note that this is a graduation requirement and not a general education requirement; therefore, students transferring into UTK with general education requirements met through transfer coursework will still need to complete this requirement, beginning with those pursuing programs in the 2021-2022 catalog.

Experiences that satisfy the Contemporary Issues and Solutions requirement provide students with the opportunity to integrate the disciplinary ways of knowing, awareness of self and other, and communication and reasoning skills developed through their General Education curriculum with focused inquiry in one or more specific disciplines (often a student’s major) to examine critical issues facing today’s world. Courses or experiences with this designation address a contemporary issue or
challenge, defined as a topic that currently affects individuals’ abilities to lead safe, fulfilling, healthy lives and to contribute to productive societies. Students will complete one approved course (0-3 credit hours).

Learning Outcomes

Contemporary Issues and Solutions-designated experiences will produce the following learning outcomes for students:

1. Students will be able to reflect on how the knowledge, awareness, and skills they have acquired through their General Education experiences contribute to their understanding of the contemporary issue and possible solutions.
2. Students will be able to effectively communicate to one or more specific audiences about the contemporary issue, in terms of its history, scientific dimensions, cultural influences, underlying mechanisms, correlates, outcomes, and/or policy implications.
3. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, and/or create proposed solutions to a contemporary issue.

Application

Deadline: Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis, but must be submitted no later than October 15 of the year prior to the effective catalog year.

Subcommittee Members

- Christopher Stripling, Chair, Herbert College of Agriculture
- Monica Black, College of Arts and Sciences
- Deb Chyka, College of Arts and Sciences
- Mark Collins, Haslam College of Business
- Alison Connor, Office of the University Registrar
- Nick Geidner, College of Communication and Information
- Erin Hardin, College of Arts and Sciences
- Christopher Lavan, Experience Learning
- Charissa Powell, University Libraries
- Brad Vanderzanden, Tickle College of Engineering

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Call to order: A regular meeting of the General Education Committee was held in the West Wing Conference Room (440) of Haslam Business Building on February 13, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Barbara Murphy, Committee Chair, at 8:30 am.

Members and Subcommittee Members present: Barbara Murphy, Chair, Monique Anderson, Richard Bennett, Megan Bryson, Sarah Burnley, Chuck Collins, Erin Darby, Marleen Davis, Kim Denton, George Drinnon, Jeff Fairbrother, Betsy Gullett, John Haas, Cheryl Kojima, Jeff Larsen, Roberta Lavin, Joanne Logan, Mike McFall, Harrison Meadows, Masood Parang (by proxy Margie
Russell), Missy Parker, Charissa Powell, Jeff Ringer, Lisi Schoenbach, John Stier, and Amanda Warren

Others present: K’Cindra Cavin, Alison Connor, R.J. Hinde, Jana Spitzer, Molly Sullivan, and Anthony Welch

Course Proposals: (None)

New General Education Curriculum: There were no actionable items to address, but the Committee discussed items regarding the new Vol Core curriculum, including the course application process, rubrics for assessing applications, informational meetings for the campus community, general education reassessment and timeline, and transfer credit assessment as it pertains to the Vol Core.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 am.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2019, beginning at 8:30 am in the West Wing (440) of the Haslam Business Building.

Approval of Minutes: These minutes were approved via email on February 15, 2019.

Minutes Submitted by: Molly Sullivan

VOLUNTEER CORE PRESENTATION

General Education Task Force
Appointed in 2015 to review the General Education curriculum and recommend changes. 14 members, 5 colleges.

Our current General Education curriculum is very similar to the original General Education curriculum approved in 2004.

Goals for a new General Education curriculum:
Support Experience Learning and Ready for the World
Connect the curriculum to “solving big problems”
Encourage engagement and education across disciplinary lines
General Education Task Force

Initial fact-finding phase:
- Faculty and student focus groups and surveys
- Meetings with departments and colleges
- Day-long, campus-wide General Education Town Hall

Faculty survey results:
- 390+ faculty respondents
- 130+ (38%) had taught a General Education course
- 32% could not identify the General Education learning objectives supported by the course
- 55% said that the General Education nature of the course did not affect course design or delivery

UTK General Education (today)

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FYC = first-year composition (sequence)
WC = discipline-focused writing (can be in the major)
OC = oral communication (can be in the major)
QR = quantitative reasoning
AH = arts & humanities
NS = natural sciences (at least one course must have a lab component L)
SS = social sciences
GC = cultures & civilizations: Non-U.S. history (NUH) or culture (C) courses or intermediate-level foreign language (FL)

Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)

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AOC = applied oral communication (can be in the major)
OC = global citizenship (US and international subcategories)
AAH = applied arts & humanities: creative work courses

Plus 6 more hours of Volunteer Core electives drawn from these areas

Plus 9 hours of Engaged Inquiries course work (can double count many ways)

Volunteer Core (Fall 2021) Effective Communication

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Volunteer Core (Fall 2021) Expanded Perspectives

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Plus 6 more hours of Volunteer Core electives drawn from these areas

Plus 9 hours of Engaged Inquiries course work (can double count many ways)
Volunteer Core (Fall 2021)  Engaged Inquiries

FYC  WC  OC  AOC  QR  NS  AH  SS  GC  AAH

Plus 6 more hours of Volunteer Core electives drawn from these areas

AOC = applied oral communication (can be in the major)
GC = global citizenship (US and international subcategories)
AAH = applied arts & humanities: creative work courses

Plus 9 hours of Engaged Inquiries course work (can double count many ways)

Support for applied learning

Applied Oral Communications:
Emphasizes importance of effective oral communication strategies within a discipline or profession

Applied Arts & Humanities:
Recognizes educational value of hands-on creative work (creative writing; visual, plastic, and musical arts; theatrical performances)

Recognition that disciplinary boundaries are permeable

Current curriculum:
Cultures & Civilizations courses cannot meet Arts & Humanities or Social Sciences requirements.

Volunteer Core curriculum:
A single course can deliver learning outcomes associated with multiple Expanded Perspectives categories — but a student can only apply a course to a single category.

Example: A course can satisfy either Global Citizenship, International or Social Sciences requirements, but not both simultaneously.

Connection to Experience Learning

Engaged Inquiries courses:
Require students to engage in two of four learning modalities:
- Applied Learning
- Collaborative Learning
- Reflective Learning
- Integrative/Multidisciplinary Learning

Require students to produce an investigative, creative, or practical work relevant to the course topic.

Students must complete nine credit hours from at least two different subject codes (ANSC, ARCH, BAS, BIDL, CIFS, CMST, ECON, ENGL, etc.)

Implementation Calendar

Spring 2019: Begin accepting new course proposals for Volunteer Core

October 15, 2019: Last date that courses can be submitted for inclusion in the current General Education curriculum

December 2019: Target date for course proposals for Volunteer Core

April 1, 2020: Deadline for current General Education courses to be submitted for inclusion in Volunteer Core

AV 2019-2020: Departments, schools, colleges update their major curricula and uTrack showcases to include Volunteer Core requirements

December 1, 2020: Deadline for major curricula and uTrack showcases to be updated to include Volunteer Core requirements

Implementation Details

Implementation calendar and course proposal forms are now posted online at the Undergraduate Council website.

http://gccouncil.utm.edu/
(Look for Volunteer Core menu item)

The General Education committee will meet on a monthly basis for the rest of AV 2018-19 and throughout AV 2019-20 to facilitate quick turn-around of course proposals.
Didn’t You Forget Something?

The new Contemporary Issues & Solutions graduation requirement is not part of the Volunteer Core curriculum. A separate information session about this new requirement will be scheduled for later in the Spring term.