

Committee on General Education 10/23/2020
4pm--5:50pm

Meeting Minutes

COGE Meeting on Zoom:

https://ricollege.zoom.us/rec/share/pFfzMh7Am94f5j8KrQPP3I8PwWDpPteA8RvYtWN0Pc6x_UWr3TqQ-mEy4doAEFsA.6UFh32YdARQD25Sy

Access Passcode: 8uz3*e6O

In Attendance:

C. Falangola, J. Zornado (chair), S. Costa, K. Almeida, D. Gill, T. Ender, J. Capece, M. Michaud, B. Caouette, M. Baker, J. T. Ender, J. Wu, S. Ross, K. Garabedian.

Excused: D. Espinosa, S. Brown, B. Martin

Absent:

S. Pearlmutter

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm via Zoom chat.

New Member Introductions

S. Ross has joined the committee as a representative from the School of Nursing. Kyra Garabedian has joined as a student representative.

New Business

The chair asked the Dean about the possibilities of receiving—or encouraging—new course proposals, especially Connections courses. J. Dagle explained how Connections courses are run and that courses may be approved, but not all Connections courses are able to run simply because of supply out-stripping demand. The Dean explained that on average the college offers 28-30 sections of Connections while this term it is approximately 20. E. Simson agreed that COGE might receive and pass proposals, current enrollment suggests fewer demand for Connections courses will remain depressed.

Writing and General Education

B. Caouette opened the discussion of writing in General Education by observing that First Year Writing and Writing in the Disciplines were linked, parts of a greater whole. M. Michaud offered his report on Writing on the Disciplines. (See his WID Visibility Update, attached). Discussion followed. The question of WID's relationship to General Education, and to COGE was raised and discussed. E. Simson and J. Dagle explained the history of WID as a feature of the current Gen Ed program, and why it answers to COGE. Discussion followed. The committee agreed to continue exploring the role of WID on campus and where it should be housed—assuming that the current budget crisis allows for WID and a WID coordinator. J. Dagle observed that B. Caouette is Director of Writing on campus and suggested the disciplinary connection between

WID and the director of Writing might make more institutional sense in terms of supporting writing and the teaching and learning of writing on campus. Currently support for the WID coordinator has been suspended by the Provost's office. The future of WID at the college remains uncertain and will be part of ongoing discussions.

D. Gill, B. Caouette and M. Baker, k. Almeida (among others) advocated for an approach to Gen Ed review that considered our current Gen Ed learning outcomes as key to our review process. Discussion followed, including broad outlines of the differences between "class requirement" Gen Ed programs, and "outcomes based" Gen Ed requirements. The committee reviewed current General Education "learning outcomes." Never far from the discussion was the awareness that even as the committee begins Gen Ed review, significant challenges remain for the college which will impact our work, perhaps to an unwelcome degree. Our current pandemic and budget crisis together make an already difficult challenge even more difficult; it is difficult to see opportunity amidst the crisis when so much remains uncertain. Meanwhile, g. Dragan suggested potential questions for a faculty survey might include: these are working drafts. Thank you, D. Gill for submitting them:

- 1 – A survey question on any updated or relevant departmental standards, guidelines, etc. (e.g. WAC and ACRL Information Literacy standards.
- 2 – A survey question about whether there is interest/capacity in regards to the possibility of changing to an outcomes vs. class requirements Gen Ed program

The chair asked the committee to continue gathering information about the current Gen Ed program: "what works, what doesn't" and to encourage faculty to communicate their observations and perspectives in order to develop a well-informed faculty survey of Gen Ed later in the fall term.

The meeting concluded at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Zornado
Chair, COGE