

Shepherd University * General Studies * Meeting Minutes* May 5, 2010
Committee Membership:

Laura Clayton	(NURS)	present
Larry Daily	(Chair)	present
Anna Devito	(HPERS)	X
Amy DeWitt	(SGA)	present
Heidi Dobish	(PSYC)	present
Meg Galligan	(BADM)	present
Karen Green	(SOWK)	present
Roger Hamood	(ACCT)	X
Lynne Hannah	(EDUC)	present
Anders Henriksson	(HIST)	present
Ann Henriksson	(Library)	present
Erik Jones	(MUSC)	present
Kristin Kaineg	(CAT)	present
Mengyang Li	(CHEM)	present
Tim Nixon	(E&ML)	X
Carol Plautz	(BIOL)	X
John Schultz	(ECON)	present
Stephanie Slocum-Schaffer	(PSCI)	present
Ed Snyder	(IES)	X
Zhijun Wang	(CSME)	X
Kevin Williams	(MCOM)	present
Monet Johnson	(SGA president)	X
Student Rep	(student rep)	X
Helena Cole	(retention Specialist)	present
Scott Beard		X
Holly Frye	(Service Learning)	present
Christana Johnson	(Multicultural SA)	X
Judi McIntyre	(FYEX Director)	present
Laura Renninger	(Assessment Task Force)	present
Tracy Seffers	(Registrar)	present
Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt	(C&I Chair)	present

The May 5, 2010 meeting of the Shepherd University General Studies Committee was held in the Cumberland Room of the Student Center. Chair, Larry Daily called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Meeting Schedule (2009-2010): The General Studies Committee will meet every third Wednesday of the month at 4:10pm

- I. Approval of minutes for meeting from 4/21/2010
Minutes approved. Correction to subcommittee 3 Chair/presenter from Dr. Snyder to Dr. Clayton

II. Chair's Report

Dr. Daily thanked the members for their time, dedication and work over the academic year.

Update from C&I: Curricular Discussions in the last C+I meeting: (taken from C+I approved minutes)

A number of curricular items have been discussed by C&I members and their constituents for the past academic year, most falling under the umbrella of the 120-hr. curricular maximum for baccalaureate degrees. These issues have been discussed through C&I minutes and employee email distribution, as well as in C&I meetings, which are open to the campus and which have been attended by a variety of faculty and committee representatives across the campus community this semester. The policy and tradition in C&I, as in other Senate Subcommittees, has been to carry any curricular items affecting programs and departments at large directly to the Senate for discussion and endorsement, as the Senate's representation is universal. These items are as follows:

1. **C&I Endorsement of 120-credit Hour Curricular Maximum** for Baccalaureate Degrees // M/S/P Unanimous
2. **Streamlining Minors** // Motion: The C&I Committee endorses streamlining the minors to 15-18 hours, unless outcomes-based standards will be compromised.
 - a. Rationale: While the Committee understands that each minor will vary in terms of courses needed for competencies and credibility of the program, revisiting the minors should parallel work currently being undertaken to review majors as a way for degrees to meet the 120-hr. curricular maximum. // M/S/P Unanimous
3. **Prerequisites** // Motion: That a general prerequisite statement be placed at the beginning of the catalogue: "300 and 400-level courses are open only to those with sophomore or higher status or non-degree status or by permission of the instructor, unless specifically stated prerequisites have been met." // M/S/P Unanimous
4. **Course Sharing within the Framework** of an Outcomes-Based Curriculum
 - a. Motion: The Curriculum and Instruction Committee recommends that limited course sharing, up to 8-credit hours, be allowed for majors and minors where some of the same required courses are listed.
 - b. Rationale: This policy is consistent with an "outcomes-based curriculum" when students have satisfied required intended student outcomes. This policy will likewise allow students more free electives within the 120-hr. curricular maximum. // M/S/P Unanimous
5. **Foreign Language Requirements** and Distinction between BA & BS Degrees
 - a. No motion was made; however, this discussion, with advice of Modern Language faculty and department chairs, will continue in the fall.
6. **Age of Credits Issue**
 - a. Motion: C&I recommends that Department Chairs be charged with the review of course descriptions and make the decision whether the course material remains appropriate for acceptable credit toward degrees when there is a question about the age of credits being presented for a program 10 years after course completion. // M/S/P Unanimous

Request for summer meetings: The VPAA asked Dr. Daily if the GS committee would be meeting throughout the summer. The President and VPAA are concerned the committee will lose momentum if they do not continue to meet throughout the summer.

Members of the committee unanimously agreed that a break over the summer is necessary so we can step away and look at the new Core and framework. The committee did agree to an August Retreat.

Full-day Retreat Proposed from Wednesday August 11 at NCTC

If members of the committee cannot make the retreat, representatives will be allowed like the January retreat. Details to come after Dr. Daily meets with VPAA.

III. CLA/MAPP results: Laura Renninger

Typically our first year students are **below or well-below expected**. With the CLA test our graduating seniors are scoring within the 96th percentile of the 234 participating colleges. This means the students at Shepherd advance their reasoning and communication skills beyond those of their peers.

The results of this test show that the value added is quite good and indicates Shepherd is doing something to improve their scores whether or not that is a result of the Current General Studies curriculum that is unknown.

- 2005-06 // 63% value added
- 2006-07 // 90% value added
- 2007-08 // 80% value added
- 2008-09 // 96% value added
- 2009-10 // CLA was not taken another test was given
 - The test given to students is a different type of assessment because it provides charts, graphs and articles and it asks the students what they would do to resolve the issues presented.

Discussion on CLA/MAPP results: As we seek to reform General Studies, it needs to be as good as what we are currently doing.

Dr. Renninger states that the CLA test is not directly tied to General Studies. At Shepherd, our students take the Cross-Section not the Longitudinal. The Longitudinal test relates more closely with General Studies. Based on the Cross-Sectional results we are doing several things right at Shepherd not just General Studies. We do need to remember the results show the value added and that are students are already coming in the University below expected.

Dr. Henriksson commented on a related issue of General Studies is how we are going to market and sell the new Core Curriculum to the Faculty. Dr. Henriksson mentioned the ACF report sent out around 4/23. But the report states that less choices in General Studies equals more degree completers. Students tend to graduate sooner if there are less choices. In the new Core Curriculum, we should not just offer choices for the sake of choices they need to be effective and relatable to the Area of study.

IV. Integrating subcommittee recommendations into the framework

Discussion about Framework and Subcommittee work:

- Highlights from the discussion:
 - **What will be the requirements/criteria for a Writing Intensive course** in the Major? Could there be a number of courses that fulfill this

requirement or does it have to be one course within the major? If this Writing Intensive course is an Upper-level course that criteria needs to be specified and developed.

- **Why can't we gradually amend the General Studies?** Why do we have to do one overhaul and put a new Core Curriculum in place?
 1. For example, we can add courses under the new framework (i.e Psychology) but not eliminate any of the courses currently offered in the General Studies.
- How will the committee deal with **Assessment** of the new Core?
- How will we deal with the **transition** stages of students on Old Curriculum and the incoming students who would be taking classes within the new Core?
- The new Core Curriculum will have to be voted on and pass with a two-thirds of the committee plus the faculty.
- We need to see how the proposed Core matches up with the current General Studies. (*Discussion continued online*)
- The current FYEX class offered shows an increased retention rate of students.
- Karen Green presented the work completed by the Capstone and Competencies Subcommittee. **Report can be downloaded from SAKAI.** The file can be downloaded from the Subcommittee Reports Folder.
 - Adopted AAC+U rubrics, log on to AAC+U website to review.
 - Changed it from “Well-being” to “Wellness”
 - Clarified civic engagement to show local and global involvement
 - **Capstone courses:** Many programs are currently offering a capstone course. The exception is programs that do not offer one. The subcommittee recommends that the GS committee needs to keep flexibility in the Capstone requirements so departments can cater it to their needs. The GS committee should set a minimum standard—skills, competencies, etc. should be higher than lower level courses.
 - **Questions regarding Capstone:**
 1. Do students complete a capstone course in their minor? Or is that experienced combined in with the Major capstone?
 2. Should there be a University-wide Capstone for programs that do not offer one? This course could include service learning and integrate work from the major.

V. Other Business

- No other business was discussed

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Kaineg, Secretary