

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
WMU ESSENTIAL STUDIES COURSE REVIEW AND APPROVAL COMMITTEE
Minutes of 14 January 2019

Members Present: Charles Bruce, Kirsty Eisenhart, Beth Ernst, Decker Hains, Jennifer Harrison, Gina Kling, Michele McGrady, Matilda McLean, Amy Naugle, Ilana Nash, Pablo Pastrana, Matthew Ross, Kathryn Thomsen, Greg Veeck, Kathryn Wagner, Kevin Wanner, Carol Weideman

Members Absent: Paul Engelman, Lois Lemon

Ex Officio Member Present: Marilyn Kritzman

Advisory Members Present: Diana Blouin, Mervyn Elliott, Nick Gauthier, Anthony Helms, Melinda Lockett, Richard McMullen, Shannon Myers, David Reinhold, Colleen Stano, Sharon VanDyken

Advisory Member Absent: Tammi Smith

Committee Chair Decker Hains called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

A motion was made by Nash, seconded by Kritzman, to accept the agenda as provided. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – 3 December 2018

A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Veeck, to approve the minutes as provided. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

General Education Proposals

- GENED_CHEG2610_CEAS-PAPR-26

A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Naugle, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_ME3650_CEAS-ME-39

A motion was made by Naugle, seconded by McGrady, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_ENVS2150_CAS-ENVS-290

A motion was made by Ross, seconded by McGrady, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_COM3580_CAS-COM-123

A motion was made by Kritzman, seconded by Veeck, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_COM4790_CAS-COM-121

A motion was made by Harrison, seconded by McGrady, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_AVS2650_CA-AVS-68

It was noted that this course is not a General Education course and does not need the committee's approval.

- GENED_SPPA4590_CHHS-SPPA-157

A motion was made by Veeck, seconded by McGrady, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_AVS4630_CA-AVS-69

A motion was made by Ernst, seconded by Pastrana, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

- GENED_EDMM3020_CEAS-EDMM-98

A motion was made by Harrison, seconded by McGrady, to approve the proposal as submitted. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Retreat Preparation

Each committee member was asked to review the proposals assigned to their team prior to the retreat. Teams will meet to discuss the proposals and team leaders will capture comments on the checklist and assessment form. Following team discussions, each team will brief the whole committee and then the whole committee will vote on each proposal. The file naming convention was explained. A representative from each academic college will be asked to attend the retreat in order to answer questions. The updated course review checklists and assessment forms have been added to the shared OneDrive. Committee members were asked to look for the good, assume faculty are doing the right thing, provide constructive feedback, and be collaborative with representatives from academic colleges. This committee will be making recommendations for approval to the WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee.

Feedback and Questions

The following questions were raised:

- Are the number of proposals currently in the OneDrive the final number to be reviewed at the first retreat? Yes, these were curated by Summy and Elliott so that each group reviews about 20 submissions.
- Should team members recuse themselves from a proposal coming from their department? Yes, but the team member can serve as a consultant for the team.
- The role of the academic deans was discussed. The dean's part of the process is the approval between the college curriculum committee and this committee.
- Committee members were asked to reflect on if the course sounds like it belongs in a liberal general education program. Don't judge based on title/name of the course. Does it "fit" for all students and is the assessment feasible?
- Reinhold thanked the committee for participation. The developing program is not just single courses to meet a general education requirement, but rather a change in culture from "my course" to "WMU program".

ADJOURNMENT

The WMU Essential Studies Course Review and Approval Committee will meet next on 25 January 2019 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Bernhard Center, room 210. Chair Decker Hains adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Submitted by: Colleen Stano, Secretary