

**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
WMU ESSENTIAL STUDIES EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of 22 May 2018**

Members Present: Mervyn Elliott, Leigh Ford, Decker Hains, Kevin Knutson, Staci Perryman-Clark, Elke Schoffers, Sarah Summy, Delores Walcott

Members Absent: Yvonne Ford, Ed Martini

Ex Officio Member Present: Suzan Ayers

Advisory Members Present: Carrie Cumming, Marilyn Duke, Matt Provenzale, Dave Reinhold

Advisory Members Absent: Jeanne Baron,

Committee Chair Sarah Summy called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Acceptance of the Agenda

Item B2 was moved to B1. Two action items were added; Baccalaureate Writing and Variable Topics courses.

A motion was made by Suzan Ayers, Perryman-Clark, to accept the agenda as revised. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – 10 May 2018

A motion was made by L. Ford, seconded by Ayers to approve the minutes as provided. Motion carried.

Chairs remarks

Summy summarized one-on-one time requirement for faculty advice activity and the academic forum presentation. Three of the intent documents have been received thus far: Physics, Social Work, and African American and African Studies. Help that each college will need and the different questions from each college were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

Review and Approve Rubrics

The draft rubric for the “Increase Foundational Knowledge of the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts” outcome was distributed and discussed. The notion of “value” may have cultural bias if it is assessed by, for example, students coming up and asking questions after class. Perryman-Clark stated that “appreciation” is a subjective engagement, Schoffers supported the significance of the discipline, and that students understand the impact of what they are learning. “Disciplinary Significance” was suggested over “Disciplinary Appreciation”. The committee agreed to remove “personal”. The “Creative and Critical Thinking” rubric was discussed regarding splitting into four new rubrics. Discussion was held regarding splitting other rubrics with the exception of Scientific Literacy and Scientific Literacy with a lab. A “Note” was suggested to address the approval process for testing out of Language and Culture. Knutson expressed that advisors have the authority to assist international students with that process. Cumming reaffirmed that there are multiple ways to achieve credit. The rubrics had been presented on the Faculty Senate website had been aligned with course categories and levels. The

committee decided that the rubrics should stand on their own rather than be labelled and ordered.

Discussion was held regarding “ancient cultures” such as Aboriginal, Viking, etc. would be approved in this course category. Schoffers stated that non-anglophile culture was the intent of the category so it may have to be addressed when approving such courses.

Baccalaureate Writing

Ayers reported the intent of the Executive Board regarding the writing across the curriculum replacing the baccalaureate-writing requirement. Perryman-Clark stated that the intention was to promote writing in the major which remains a university requirement. Discussion was held and it was suggested that if colleges do not want to continue those classes that is up to the college. It is clearly stated that baccalaureate writing is not part of the WMU Essential Studies curriculum. Reinhold had assumed the baccalaureate writing courses would be contained in Level 3-Connections. It may remain a departmental requirement for majors but it was confirmed that it is not a part of WMU Essential Studies. A writing requirement could be fulfilled if the department’s baccalaureate writing class is approved as a Level 3-Connections course.

Variable Topics

MOA-18/01 states that there will not be variable topic course included in the WMU Essential Studies curriculum. In the current General Education policy, every topic has to be approved by the Committee to Oversee General Education. A topic can be covered using different teaching examples or materials but is not a variable topic. Different genres would have to be different courses.

WMU Essential Studies Director Job Description

Topic postponed until next meeting.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairs Intent Results

Topic postponed until next meeting.

Electronic Curriculum Submission Form

Provenzale reported that he has been working with Brodasky on the electronic submission form. A paper copy was distributed and discussion was held. Changes were made accordingly for “and” and “or”.

ADJOURNMENT

The WMU Essential Studies Executive Advisory Committee will meet next on 5 June 2018 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Bernhard, Faculty Lounge. Chair Sarah Summy adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Mervyn Elliott, Committee Secretary.