

COMMITTEE: General Education and Instructional Effectiveness Committee

MEETING DATE: Do you remember the 21st day of September, 2020 (2pm)

PERSON PRESIDING: Chair George Bailey

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Travis Alford, George Bailey (Chair), Randall Martoccia, Jessica Doyle-Mekkes, Chris Oakley (Secretary), Karen Vail-Smith (Vice Chair), Scott Abney, Sue-L Cohen

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Collins, Ying Zhou, Elizabeth Mizelle

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rachel Baker, Megan Janke, Derek Maher

ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Review of Senior Survey

Discussion: None.

Action Taken: Review of the Senior Survey is postponed in order to avoid making changes prior to SCAS report.

Assigned additional duties to: None

Agenda Item: Peer Observations for Fall 2020

Discussion: Done online through e-mail.

Action Taken: In response to her questions to the committee, about peer observation, committee members provided Faculty Chair Martinez with the following response:

1. Should there be an exception about probationary faculty in their 2nd and 4th year securing peer observations or observations for fixed term faculty mandated by the code?

The General Education and Instructional Effectiveness committee (GEIE) agrees with the Faculty Chair that the unit administrator, chair of the personnel committee, and unit faculty members may develop a mutually agreeable schedule for peer observations in light of ECU's operating procedures during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Faculty Manual allows for flexibility in the timing of peer review observations for probationary faculty, requiring a total of 8 observations during the first five years of a six-year probationary period. For fixed term faculty, a unit may postpone observations because other measures are available to determine teaching effectiveness. However, if a fixed-term faculty member requests peer observation (for face-to-face or online classes) the unit should accommodate that request.

2. Should peer observers be allowed into a classroom for face-to-face observation when the classroom is at maximum capacity?

The GEIE agrees with the Faculty Chair that the Chancellor's policy governing the opening of the campus prohibits classrooms being occupied at greater than 50% of their normal size limit. Therefore, peer observers should not be allowed into a classroom that is at maximum capacity.

3. Should special considerations be given to the fact that a faculty member is teaching online for the first time?

The GEIE agrees with the Faculty Chair that the pre-observation meeting, which is a required part of the overall peer observation procedure, should address anything that does not conform to the expectations of the peer-observation criteria currently in place in the unit, such as a shift to online-teaching, conversion to a flipped classroom, or other changes in teaching duties and activities due to ECU's response to Covid-19.

The Committee voted online to recommend that ECU proceed as normal for fall 2020 SSOI surveys.

Assigned additional duties to: None

Agenda Item: Transfer Credit

Discussion: None

Action Taken: Committee members voted to give transfer credit to the following:

DD credit, SOC 101, Introduction to Sociology, West Virginia University at Parkersburg. (Aug 21, 2020)

GE HU credit, LBST 2012, Global Connections, UNC Charlotte

DD credit for MUS 260: History of Jazz at North Carolina State University.

GD credit for HIST 1320 - World Societies (3) at NC Central University.

Assigned additional duties to: None

Agenda Item: Request from the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, Recreational Therapy Program for GE Health Promotion and Health-Related Physical Activity Competency credit for RCTX 2200, Stress management.

Discussion: Committee members and visitors to the meeting discussed the merits of the request.

Action Taken: The Committee voted to table the agenda item until the next meeting in order to gather more information.

Assigned additional duties to: Chair Bailey will invite relevant external constituents to the next meeting to discuss this request.

Agenda Item: Meta Majors

Discussion: Associate Dean of THCAS Derek Maher attended meeting to discuss the use of Meta Majors to improve student success. Maher and members of the committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the use of Meta Majors as they applied to various units at ECU.

Action Taken: None

Assigned additional duties to: None

Agenda Item: Use of surveys of student opinion to evaluate faculty

Discussion: Committee members briefly discussed the inherent problem of bias when using student opinion surveys, and what role this committee has in addressing the problem.

Action Taken: Committee decided to continue discussion online and return to this topic at the next meeting.

Assigned additional duties to: None

NEXT MEETING: 19 October 2020

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: