

General Education Committee

Minutes, August 25, 2015 Meeting

In Attendance: M. Eftink, L. Cohen, R. Forgette, H. Reynolds, S. Monroe, M. Allen, V. Chavis, N. Wiggers, J. Moen, K. Kellum

Absent: C. Hussey, I. Labuda

1. Discussion of proposal for strengthening oral communication within the General Education curriculum. See attached memos from Drs. Cummings and Dr. Monroe. The memo from Dr. Cummings contains five specific recommendations:

1. Expand the number of Speech 102 offerings through an online/hybrid course.
2. Create new one-hour oral communication competency course.
3. Create a Speech Lab to support the above course.
4. Increase the number of face-to-face Speech 102 offerings.
5. Hire a 'Communications Across the Curriculum Coordinator.'

The committee discussed these proposals and their priority or phasing. The highest priority was considered to be #5, the hiring of a Coordinator, in order to have this person help lead the other efforts. The person would be a PhD in Speech Communication and would be hired under the Department of Writing and Rhetoric. This is a request for a new, permanent position in the \$50,000 salary range.

The next highest priority would be #1, to expand the capacity to teach Speech 102 via a hybrid (online with some face to face) version of this course. One such section is being taught this Fall, 2015, and the proposal is to immediately expand the number of such offerings to meet the specific need of some majors to have Speech 102/105, while also minimizing strain on classroom needs.

The next highest priority would be #3, to create one or more Speech Labs, similar to Studio One lab in the Library. This infrastructure would be needed before we could successfully implement the proposals to increase the number of sections of Speech 102/105 and to create a new one-hour oral communications competency course. The Committee estimates the cost of creating such a lab to be around \$45,000, plus staffing by a graduate student.

It is then proposed to increase the number of speech instructors by three per year, over the next three years, to add to the current five speech instructors. After three years, we would then have 17 speech instructors. These speech instructors would be responsible either for teaching Speech 102/105

(whether face-to-face or hybrid) or for teaching the proposed one hour oral communication competency courses. With 17 instructors, the institution should be able to offer approximately 70 sections of Speech 102/105 (including the above hybrid versions) per regular semester, which could accommodate up to 2800 students per year (not counting the summer). Alternatively, the one hour oral communication competency course, which may be aligned with sections of Writ 101 or 102, would enable an even larger number of students to complete either a three hour or one hour speech course to satisfy the General Education requirement in oral communication.

The proposed Coordinator and Speech Lab would support this build up process. In particular, it is proposed that the speech courses, especially the one hour communication competency course, place emphasis on multi-modal types of communication, which can be taught, captured and assessed through the use of video.

2. Discussion of assessing Ethical Reasoning within the context of Edhe 105 (e.g., lesson on The Creed) and in connection with the Common Reading Experience

3. Proposal to modify the Ethical Reasoning/Responsibility General Education learning outcome to delete the 'Responsibility' concept. This was unanimously adopted.

4. Continued discussion of ways to assess Critical Thinking, including ways to incorporate within Writ 101 and ways to align with courses in the majors.

5. Continued discussion about whether and how to include information literacy as a learning outcome and discussion about current assessment of various General Education learning outcomes with the majors.