



GEATFC MINUTES SUMMARY

General Education Ad Hoc Task Force on Curriculum

April 8, 2019. 8:30 a.m., CLEV 418

GEATFC Senate Website page:

<https://collegesenate.buffalostate.edu/general-education-ad-hoc-task-force-curriculum>

GEATFC Co-Chair Bhakti Sharma called the meeting to order at 8:36 p.m.

Bhakti and **Jason** discussed that today the three WG's will report on their category and how it relates to the Gen Ed program.

WG Reports:

WG-1 Gary Solar-Proofreading

- Proofread over Provost Report.
- Found 59 areas to comments on, most are typographical issues.
 - There are 14 stylistics areas to fix.
 - 13 areas that need further clarification, i.e. phrases, etc. References are needed.
 - 5 areas worth sharing/showing to GEATFC.
 - We can look at Gen Ed as a large-scale program.
- **Jason** began the discussion over WG-1st report. Finding ways to eradicate mistakes and flaws for the final Gen Ed document.
- **Bhakti** requested for WG-1 to go ahead and make those changes and prepare the report to be seen at the next GEATFC meeting.

WG-2 Ann Liao-Coherence

- **Ann** shared WG-2's feedback on the document and found several problematic areas that need addressing.
 - 4 credits.

- E-portfolio should be at department level, not campus mandate.
- First year. Seminar. Is this similar to BSC 101? Are there enough sessions? **Ann** said looking at the problems that BSC 101 had, we should not go the way of that.
- MSCHE requirements: Why just diversity and not global awareness? Coherence problem with Middle States.
 - Scientific reasoning Tiger/ Stripes: Toom complicated and an advising problem
- **Joy** stated that these seem closer to implementation issues than coherence.
- SUNY is changing their Gen Ed.
- **Ann** felt that the current document is confusing and not implementable without changes made.
- **Bhakti** stated that we will collect all of this information today and then at the April 22nd meeting share and debate/discuss.
- In response to **Bhakti's** suggestion that **Nigel** could be brought in as a consultant to resolve the 4-credit question and implementation, **Scott** felt that curricular decisions shouldn't be made because of the Registrar's software.
- There was further discussion. **Joy** expressed that before implementation discussion would go on, she wanted to give her report for WG-3.
- **Jason** restated Ann's comment that 4 credits won't work, too complicated. The E-portfolio is problematic.
- **Amitra** suggested further discussion on all of these areas is needed before ruling out any areas for Gen Ed's revision.

The discussion continued with pros for keeping all or parts of the current Gen Ed program. Several members felt that since the previous provost has left, do we still need to do this? It was the previous provost that wanted to install this new Gen Ed Program.

Joe felt that whatever is decided it is solely at the interest of our students. There may be parts we want to keep in the new Gen Ed, and some that will be tossed out.

Amitra stated that she firmly believed that when a potential student is looking for a college, they go to see what kind of Gen Ed program they have and base their decision to apply on that. She wanted to make our Gen Ed program unique for Buffalo State.

David felt some of this he liked, but separate discussion should take place, especially for; writing courses; e-portfolio. Applied learning – infused for majors.

Jason spoke on the IF-14, and at the time the Senate's rationale was for students to pursue minors, and there was a 50% uptick in students taking minors.

Joe stated that Buffalo State has to align itself with SUNY as that will come up. Joe had his meeting with the President and she always asks how GEATFC is going. He told her that hopefully the Senate would have something by Spring 2020.

Joe felt that looking at what makes a BSC student unique is important; how do we build on that strength? The Communication dept. struggles with e-portfolios.

Kathy felt that our current Gen Ed needs to be simplified for incoming students. There are good parts to it, but some changes are needed.

WG-3 Joy Guarino-Implementation

Joy stated that SUNY is moving to a lesser requirement of 21 credits in one proposal.

- The proposed Gen Ed is for 37. She felt that her WG leaned more towards implementation of what we want; what is best for our students, because of complexity. Possibly merging current SLO's, Stripes, ILO can be used to drive Stripes better.
- Implementing of an e-portfolio is costly, how would these be assessed? Look at the bigger picture; college culture and the feeling of BSC 101. Discuss this next time. Major marketing/PR would need to be done.

Bhakti stated that we now have, UNC and HON 101; we've gone from Tier 3 to 4 and student preparedness is required.

Joy conversation around Tiger Tracks.

- Who is doing approval and oversight?
- How do we train faculty; we want to address PR/marketing right away.
- What parts of the Gen Ed program do we keep and not keep?

Bhakti stated that at the next GEATFC meeting on April 22nd, she wants the WG-2 to present their concerns and strengths of the proposal. Based on these concerns, we can tackle issues one by one and potentially vote to break the debate if need be.

Bhakti felt that a hybrid of the two may be developed. The Green paper came at a good time, we just need to simplify it. She felt for feedback possibly inviting Luke Krieg and Nigel Mariner may help.

The discussion continued on all areas brought up at the meeting. **Bhakti** asked that all three WG's prepare a written report to present at the April 22nd meeting. List your pros and cons within your areas of review.

Jason stated that whatever SUNY is coming up with will be in accordance with Middle States. He suggested that we may go to the basic SUNY requirements for our Gen Ed. Going minimal.

David felt minimalist wasn't the way to go. Having the department offer seminars, rather than assigning them. We have social and civic responsibilities; humanities, and the arts.

David also asked to have an actual proposal to look at from each WG. **Bhakti** reiterated that again to the WG leaders.

The final two Spring 2019 meetings for GEATFC:

- Monday, April 22nd in CLEVELAND 418 @ 8:30 a.m.-9:30a.m.
- Monday, May 6th in CLEVELAND 418 @ 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

A final report from GEATFC, will be at the May 10th Senate meeting.

Bhakti and Jason thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:35 p.m.