



GEATFC MINUTES SUMMARY

General Education Ad Hoc Task Force on Curriculum

April 22, 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 8:32 a.m.

Bhakti stated that we have a strong document in front of us. She felt that the Senate may not accept any proposal/resolutions from GEATFC without considerable work and consultation. Also, if another provost comes in and decides to change things that would discount any work we are doing. However, we do have strong guidance in this room with **Joe, Amitra** and **Scott**. We will need to hear from all three WG's and discuss their ideas and comments before we could put anything together for the Senate to review.

Bhakti and **Jason** then moved to discuss **Ann Liao's** WG Coherence report.

Work Group Reports

WG-2 Ann Liao-Coherence

- **Ann** shared WG-2's Comments via a power point presentation on the several area's related to coherence. Six topics: *(Due to time constraints conversation from GEATFC only covered the first two topics listed below)*
 - **First Semester Seminar (FSS)**
 - There was *extensive* discussion on FSS. The positives and negatives were debated as to whether it is good for our students to have this option of an FSS. The available faculty that could and would be able to teach these FSS. The faculty that are only able to teach in their cognate areas, and whether or not this would allow them to 'cross-over' and teach in another area outside of their comfort zone. It is possible, but that is something to consider and then provide faculty with the knowledge, time and resources to do so.
 - **Bhakti** shared that currently there isn't any rule saying that these courses can't be taught.

- **Jason** felt that after the many discussion outside of this room on this, that the possibility of doing this in a section by section manner may work better. With the Provost report in mind, these could be stand-alone courses.
- Extensive discussion continued from **John, Joy, Amitra, Ann Scott, David, Kathy, Stephanie and**
 - The consensus was that FSS ideally should be a common experience for first year students.
 - Gen Ed should be focused on gen-ed courses.
 - Consider SUNY, requirements, etc.
 - Consider class sizes and students ability to grasp curriculum in a large setting versus a smaller class size.
 - **Joy** has concerns over how the FSS would be implemented and what exactly does an FSS course look like. Could senior take these courses? She leaned more toward teaching in a larger setting taught by FT faculty, once a week. Looking for a common experience in the room.
 - **Jason** stressed that the FSS should ideally be a common experience and lend toward having a 'homeroom' point of contact.
 - **Bhakti** stated that GEATFC is not creating the course but creating a general framework.
 - **Kathy** shared that when she taught 125 freshmen students in Bulger, many students from feedback to her, felt they were lost in that size of a class. The large room, the distance from the instructor all added to a negative learning outcome.
 - **Scott** felt that students shouldn't be asked; "how they feel about their Gen-Ed". Implementation is intimately involved. Courses could be 'tagged' out down to individual teacher. There could be several different models.
 - **Gary** said this alternate idea of having other areas taught; maybe a maximum of 7 sections need a buy in from a smaller section of faculty.

- **David** was in favor of a larger classroom setting to teach, however was concerned that adjuncts would end up being turned into PA's.
 - **Jason** large sections are a recitation model, that was written to be in small sections. Keeping them small so students are guaranteed to be taught not in a large class (hall).
 - Discussion continued and **Jason** felt that further revisions were going to be needed.
- **Basic Communication**
- **Bhakti** started by saying that we do not have all of the answers within this group. We must think how are we going to move forward and recommend this.
 - **Jason** added that all of the documents in front of us are not perfect and must have more flexibility; especially with consideration of the Provost's report. We can discuss further the idea of having 4 credit courses. **Amitra** added that it could be WORD I rather than a course. Jason agreed and stated that CWP as currently written and taught would not be a part of this.
 - **Scott:** In delivering basic communication, there must be an oral component to it:
 1. Expand it to fit SLO's.
 2. Oral Communication TAG, certainly a viable option, and what would be a SUNY requirement.
 - **Scott** Possibly CWP 103.
 - **Amitra** stated that if students with low SAT's would they take CWP 103?
 - **Scott** Using Math courses giving students a gen ed credit. Students take CWP 101 and get gen ed credit.
 - **Jason** stated that everyone thinks our students need writing skills. Gen Ed is about providing curriculum resources to programs and departments who can't deliver them efficiently on their own.
 - **Bhakti** suggested taking the 3 credit FSS and the 2 credit cognate areas and 'marry' them together.

The discussion ended as time was up.

Bhakti said that for the next meeting, there would be a Doodle Poll, as **Jason** is unable to attend the May 6th a.m. meeting. A time change may also be an option instead of the 8:30 a.m. meeting, possibly in the afternoon.

The power point from **Ann** will be emailed to GEATFC for full review, and the remaining topics; (see below) will be discussed at another meeting.

- **Tiger Tracks**
- **STRIPE**
- **E-portfolio**
- **General Education Electives & Tools**

Conversation will continue on WG-2's remaining topics at the next meeting, and additional communications going forward.

The final Spring 2019 meetings for GEATFC: (Doodle Poll may be initiated)

- Monday, May 6th in CLEVELAND 418 @

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.