

**MINUTES**  
**General Education Committee**  
**March 25, 2025**  
**8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Montecito Room**

**Members present:** Gregg Afman (Professor of Kinesiology), Michelle Hardley (Secretary, Registrar), Heather Keaney (Professor of History), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

**Absent:**

**I. Prayer – Jana Mayfield Mullen**

**II. The minutes from February 25, 2025**

The minutes from February 25, 2025 were approved.

**III. Proposed changes to the JRD certification criteria language**

The committee discussed the proposed language to add to the certification criteria for the JRD area from the Sociology department. The purpose of the language would be to note the departments that should be gatekeepers for the courses proposed for the GE category, or that would serve as consultants when courses are. A concern is whether to have departments in a controlling versus consulting role. If language like this is added, then the question would be which departments should be included in the list given the full focus and certification criteria in the category.

Discussion about this item will continue in our next meeting.

**IV. The JRD Certification Process**

This item will be discussed in a future meeting.

**V. POL-030 –Political Theory and Ideology – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity**

The committee discussed the proposal. All of the required elements have been accounted for.

The committee voted to approve the course, effective Fall 2025.

**VI. HIS-045 – Environmental History of the Holocaust – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity**

The committee discussed the proposal. There are many aspects to the course that we like. It would be nice in the syllabus to see some information about what the theological and biblical grounding would be covered in the course.

The committee voted to approve the course, effective Fall 2025.

**VII. POL-010 – American Government – Add to Common Skills and Emphasis: Justice Reconciliation and Diversity**

The committee discussed the proposal. There is evidence of Christian perspectives on political engagement, but there is not a lot of information on the theological shape and biblical grounding that would take place within the course. The GE category is looking not just for Christian ways to respond, but also calls the courses to have a biblical and theological grounding.

The committee voted send this back to Tom with a request for revisions or clarification on the missing biblical and theological piece. Telford and Heather will have a conversation with Tom on this.

**VIII. Faculty and Student JRD Revisions**

The committee worked with Carmel to make some revisions to the survey we plan to give to students this year. Carmel discussed her proposed changes and will make them as suggestions in the document. The edited document will be circulated to the committee for feedback and approval.

**IX. GE Senior Student Survey**

This item will be discussed in a future meeting.

**X. Cross-Cultural Communication Graduation Requirement Standards**

This item will be discussed in a future meeting.

**XI. The GE Submission Form revision**

This item will be discussed in a future meeting.

**XII. Other Business**

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hardley