

# University Curriculum Committee for General Education

## Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020

2:30 - 3:45 pm, Zoom meeting

**Present:** Angela Anderson, Sara Arena, Taran Cardone, Ellington Graves, Molly Hall, Kristin Phillips, Richard Rateau, Maren Roman, Hannah Shinault, Jill Sible, Rob Stephens, Zack Underwood, Anita Walz, James Wilson

**Absent:** Brian Collins, Shelley Martin, Annie Ronan, Matthew Zarbatany

**Guests:** Stephen Biscotte, Jenni Gallagher, Gary Costello

Call to Order by Rob Stephens at 2:30 pm.

### 1. Composition of PGEERC (Rob)

The PGEERC currently has two seats allotted for UCC members. One seat is currently vacant.<sup>1</sup> The committee considered whether the composition of PGEERC should be changed due to the challenge of filling both seats.

- Gary Costello, Associate Registrar for Academic Governance, provided some historical context. Prior to Pathways, CLE courses went through both the UCC and the UCCGE for approval. When Pathways was created, a special Ad Hoc committee was approved to streamline the process and remove the dual path of governance. Last year, the Ad Hoc was formalized into PGEERC.
- Gary suggested that reducing PGEERC to one UCC member doesn't really represent the spirit of the function of the committee. He proposed two options for moving forward:
  - o Continue as-is through AY 2020-21 and revisit the issue next year, recognizing that COVID is likely contributing to the difficulty of filling the second seat.
  - o Pursue reverting to just one committee, which would represent both Pathways Gen Ed and the non-Pathways undergraduate curriculum.

There was consensus to take the first option, maintaining the status quo.

### 2. Pathways Special Study Review (Stephen)

The committee considered whether ALS 1984 should offer credit for Pathways Concept 1 (Discourse). The proposal documents can be found on the [UCCGE Canvas site](#).

- It was unclear whether the proposal was seeking credit for foundational or advanced Discourse, but the committee noted that advanced Discourse courses must be at the 2000 level or above.
- There was reference to past discussions about a course needing to *teach* discourse, as opposed to using papers as a means to assess content knowledge, in order to qualify for Discourse. There was consensus that this proposal did not contain the level of discourse instruction needed to qualify for Pathways Concept 1 credit.

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<sup>1</sup> See current PGEERC roster in Appendix A

- It was noted that further discussion on how to integrate discourse could help the proposers meet all of the outcomes for advanced discourse.

A motion that ALS 1984 *not* be approved for Discourse was made, seconded, and passed (12 approvals, 1 abstention).

### 3. VA Transfer Passport (Stephen)

The committee was asked by the Registrar's Office to review a number of VCCS courses to see if/how they might carry Pathways credit for transfer students statewide. The committee addressed two questions: 1) should the course be included in the state gen ed passport? and if so 2) for which Pathways CORE concept(s) should it be approved. The syllabi for the courses can be found on the [UCCGE Canvas site](#).

Two reviewers were assigned to each course. In cases where the reviewers could not reach a consensus, or had questions to bring to the group, the courses were discussed by the full committee. There was discussion regarding the following courses:

- ART 100
  - The reviewers had an issue with the students not *creating* artwork, so were hesitant to approve for concept 6.
  - A motion that ART 100 *not* receive any Pathways credit was made, seconded, and passed (12 approvals, 1 abstention).
- HUM 201
  - There was discussion over whether it could qualify for concept 6, with a consensus that it does not.
  - A motion that HUM 201 be approved for Concept 2 was made, seconded, and passed (12 approvals, 1 abstention).
- ENG 210
  - A motion that ENG 210 be approved for Concept 1a was made, seconded, and passed (13 approvals).
- REL 100
  - Based on the amount of information provided on the syllabus, the reviewers did not find alignment with a majority of the learning outcomes. However, they felt that, with more information, this course might indeed qualify for Pathways credit. They would like to see one or two actual course syllabi, if possible.
- PHIL 260
  - As with REL 100, the reviewers could not find alignment with a majority of the learning outcomes based on the information provided. They would also like to see one or two actual course syllabi.

The committee approved 11 of the 14 courses for Pathways credit.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See the table in Appendix B for the courses and review outcomes.

#### 4. Subcommittee Reports

The subcommittee leaders briefed the group on their subcommittee's work over the last month.

- Advising (Zack Underwood)
  - The subcommittee discussed putting together talking points (to use in conversation with students) about *why* gen ed is useful. Stephen shared with the subcommittee a draft AGLS document that has been created for this same purpose. The subcommittee will be working with the Office of Gen Ed to adapt the AGLS document for use by VT advisors.
  - They had further discussion on researching which courses students within each major take to meet Pathways requirements, and compiling that data in a way that helps advisors identify trends. They plan to pilot this effort with Pamplin, working with Gary from the Registrar's Office to obtain the necessary data.
- Assessment (Molly Hall)
  - The subcommittee presented the assessment mini-grant [final proposal](#) for review.
    - Small suggestions were offered by the full committee, with general approval of program.
    - Assessment will begin again in the spring, and the hope is that the mini-grants will help instructors get back into the swing of assessment.
- Collaboratory (formerly known as the Resource Repository) (Anita Walz)
  - The subcommittee renamed the project, wanting to introduce the idea that it is more than a place to just find "stuff." Rather, it is an active, dynamic resource that instructors can both add to and take from.
  - Reminder to committee members to complete the [brainstorming activity](#) by 12/11.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm by Rob Stephens

*Minutes compiled by Jenni Gallagher*

Appendix A

**Pathways General Education Curriculum Review Committee**

**2020-2021 Roster**

Two representatives from the UCC, selected annually by UCC (one-year terms)

Alex Brand	Civil and Environmental Engineering	2021
Vacant		2021

Two representatives from the UCCGE, selected annually by the UCCGE (one-year terms)

Annie Ronan	School of Visual Arts	2021
James Wilson	Department of Entomology	2021

One faculty representative from each undergraduate college curriculum committee (three-year terms)

Hannah Shinault	Liberal Arts and Human Sciences	2022
Kevin Jones	Architecture and Urban Studies	2021
Kimberly Carlson	Business	2023
Xinghua Gao	Engineering	2022
Gebre Gebremariam	Science	2021
Chad Bolding	Natural Resources and Environment	2021
Matthew Eick	Agriculture and Life Sciences	2021
Kerry Redican	Veterinary Medicine	2023

One representative from University Studies selected by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs (three-year term)

Nick Sano-Franchini	University Academic Advising Center	2023
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One representative from University Libraries selected by the Dean of University Libraries (three-year term)

Katlyn Griffin	University Libraries	2022
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Appendix B

**VCCS Transfer Passport Reviews**

Course	Pathways? y/n	If yes, which concept(s)?
ART 105	yes	6a
ART 106	yes	2
ENG 125	yes	2
ENG 210	yes	1a
GOL 110 (TWCC)	yes	4
GOL 111	yes	4
HUM 111-112	yes	2
HUM 201	yes	2
REL 230 (TWCC)	yes	2
REL 100	No (need more info... perhaps two example syllabi)	
ART 100	No	
MUS 226	yes	6a
REL 237	yes	2
PHI 260	No (need more info, two example syllabi)	