February Meeting Minutes of the
General Education Subcommittee
Approved 3/27/14

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joanna Hersey, ARTS and Chair (to 2014)
Jim Doyle, BUS/ECON (to 2015)
Nathan Phillippi, NAT SCI/MATH (to 2015)
Lisa Mitchell, EDUC/PHYS ED (to 2015)
Elizabeth Normandy, Office of Academic Affairs

Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 3:30 PM
James B. Chavis University Center
Room 251

I. The meeting was called to order in room 251 at 3:30pm.

II. The agenda was approved, 5-0-0.

III. The January 2014 meeting minutes were approved as read, 5-0-0.

IV. Chair’s Report

   a. Schedule: An April meeting will be called on 4/24 only if a large number of proposals are received between now and then. As there is not an AA meeting following, courses will not have the chance to move up the process to be ready for Fall 2014.

V. New Business

   a. Request for catalog name edit from Sharon Kissick, Registrar. The request is below. The committee debated this issue, and felt that it should be brought to a larger group at the March Academic Affairs meeting. The item will be placed on the 3/19/14 AA agenda for discussion.

   Dear Members of the General Education Subcommittee:

   I am writing to request your consideration in changing the title of our “General Education Electives” to perhaps, “University Studies.” The reasoning behind this request is that each semester, we have between 5-10 students, who when receiving their graduation letters are “surprised” to learn they still need these General Education Elective courses when they mistakenly had thought that they had satisfied the requirement. Because the word “elective” was in the title, they believed that any university class could satisfy this requirement.

   Of course, we inform students that the courses that satisfy this requirement are clearly outlined in the catalog and the DARS degree audit; however, they still miss this. Of course, I was always one to “read the catalog,” when I was in college, but I do empathize with them when they say they thought “an elective was just an elective.”

   What problems does this create? Well, every graduation cycle we have approximately 35-50 that do not actually graduate. In these 5-10 cases per cycle, it is often the student who “thought they took their electives…” and we have to explain to very upset students and/or parents, that there are certain classes that meet this requirement, chosen by and through the faculty and curriculum governance process, of which we must abide.

   Please consider this request to change the title of the General Education Electives. If University Studies is not a suitable choice, I would welcome your suggestions and discussion.

   Thank you for considering this proposal.

   Sharon Kissick

VI. The meeting was adjourned 3:50pm.

VII. Minutes respectfully submitted by Joanna Hersey, March 3, 2014