

**General Education Committee
Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2020**

Committee members attending: Lando Carter, Joey Gray, Ryan Korstange, Kevin Krahenbuhl, Steve Lewis, Aliou Ly, Tammy Melton, Greg Nagel, Ryan Otter, James Piekarski, Deana Raffo, Karen Reed, Connie Schmidt, Laura White

Ex-officio members attending: Peter Cunningham, Leah Lyons, Steve Severn, Susan Myers-Shirk

General Education Design Team members attending: Michelle Boyer-Pennington, Katie Brackett, Keith Gamble, Soraya Nogueira

SGA student representatives attending: Samuel Blumer

Guests attending: None

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 2:05 PM by Aliou Ly. This meeting was held virtually in Zoom in accordance with campus COVID-19 precautions.

Discussion of General Education Outstanding Teaching Award: Dr. Aliou Ly

- Ten voting members of the committee submitted evaluations and seven did not. Based upon these responses, Michael Paulauskas received the highest average score.
- Aliou asked for comments. Connie Schmidt said that she respected the majority opinion, and motioned to give the award to the top-ranked candidate, Michael Paulauskas. Greg Nagel seconded the motion. Aliou suggested we move to vote. Susan created an online vote and 100% of respondents voted Yes, to accept Michael Paulauskas as this year's winner of the Outstanding Teaching Award in General Education.

Approval of Minutes: *Minutes were for the meeting of February 21, 2020.*

- Samuel Brumer and Tammy Melton were brought back into the virtual meeting at this point. Motion to approve the minutes by Connie Schmidt; seconded by Kevin Krahenbuhl. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements & Reminders: Susan Myers-Shirk, Director of General Education

- Susan said that the Gen Ed redesign is on pause now. The redesign was put on pause during the 10 days in which the campus was trying to go to remote learning, and it will remain on pause. Susan will meet next week with the Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Programs for further guidance regarding the committee's Gen Ed redesign timeline. The design team will continue to meet over the summer.

- Katie and Susan are working to update the website.
- Susan discussed the possibility that the committee may meet over the summer, which is permitted under committee policy.
- Susan discussed upcoming changes to the committee's membership: six members are rolling off the committee this summer, as one-third of the committee is required to roll off each year. We had many new people this year who stepped in to do a one-year term in lieu of a colleague who had to leave the committee prior to the end of their appointment.

Discussion of General Education Teaching in Fall 2020; break out groups

- Small break out groups were assigned through Zoom. Susan had two questions for the groups to discuss:
 - 1) In the event that, at some point, we have to return to remote teaching, what can we as the Gen Ed committee do to support Gen Ed faculty? What resources do faculty need?
 - 2) In general, what can we do as a committee to support Gen Ed instructors in preparation for fall semester?
- Back in the main group, Peter Cunningham answered questions from the committee.
 - Samuel Blumer asked about the nature of instruction for Fall 2020 (i.e. in-person vs. remote?). Samuel said that students are registering for the fall expecting in-person classes. Peter said that it is our intention in the fall to go back to traditional delivery. If we need to go remote, this is a decision that will be made prior to the fall semester starting. We will have to adjust according to the conditions as they unfold. Ryan Otter stated that we needed to have clear communications to our students, and that some institutions (ex. Harvard and MIT) have already determined that they will be all online this fall.
 - Tammy Melton asked about hiring and new contracts for Gen Ed staffing for the fall. Departments need to know how many personnel they will be able to hire. Peter said the Provost has a meeting on Monday to discuss fall staffing.
 - James Piekarski asked what the university would do if, a couple of weeks into fall semester, there are reported cases of COVID-19. Connie Schmidt said that faculty should have the flexibility to move their class online in that instance.
- Susan asked each breakout group to send her their notes.