

Minutes of Essential Studies Committee, January 15, 2016 at 2:00 pm

- I A meeting of the Essential Studies Committee was held on January 15, 2016 in Carnegie, Rm 102. Lori Robison presided.
In attendance at the meeting: Melissa Gjellstad, Jeff Carmichael, Ken Flanagan, Donovan Widmer, Joan Hawthorne, Dave Yearwood, Christina Fargo, Ryan Zerr,
Absent: Karen Peterson, Tanis Walch, Jacob Geritz, Darryl Joy, Carla Spokely, Erich Jauch, Krista Lynn Minnotte, Elizabeth Bjerke, Sukvarsh Jerath, April Bradley, Karyn Plumm.
- II There was a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.
- III Student Petition
 - Student #9-F15
 - Lori Robison presented the student petition and moved to deny, the motion was second, voted upon and carried unanimously.
- IV Matters Arising
 - Assessment will be held on February 17, 18, 19, and 23. If you are available to proctor during this time please contact Joan Hawthorne.
- V Update on Core Sub-committee recommendations
 - Lori Robison shared the document that the ES core subcommittee prepared that spoke to the arguments for an ES core. The document provided the larger context and support for the ES core proposal. Crucial points in the written document were in bold type and/or boxes.
 - Ryan Zerr presented a PowerPoint in which he shared detailed information on the proposed ES core structure and data on the current ES structure. In the slides Ryan also shared pros and cons of an ES core. The following comments were made:
 - It was suggested that at this point it is important to determine if this can or cannot move forward. The committee needs to consider what the next steps are in moving the proposal forward. It was suggested that the committee seek further input from faculty and departments and decide in March/April if the ES core concept should move forward.
 - It was mentioned that as we move forward it is important to gain faculty buy in. If faculty are not onboard there is no point in moving forward with the proposal. If faculty are excited about the ES core concept we can continue the steps to move forward.
 - It was mentioned that with the implementation of an ES core enrollment patterns would be greatly altered.
 - Issues relative to UND's new budget model, MIRA, were raised. The concern of lost credit hours for departments was re-emphasized.
 - There was a concern of faculty not having enough time to teach the ES core courses. The core subgroup had considered this and felt this would not be an

issue as the elimination current sections of Special Emphasis courses would allow faculty to shift their time to teaching core courses.

- A question was asked on how the ES core concept can be “sold” to campus. It is important to have support of the concept first by the campus, once this is achieved we can move forward and look at the details of the concept.
 - A strength of the proposal is courses would be taught across disciplines.
 - A point was made that the ES core proposal may require a student to take an additional 3 credits. The thought was that this would mostly been seen in the professional programs.
- Joan Hawthorne moved to support the concept of the ES core with the idea that the Essential Studies Office (Ryan Zerr) will meet with key stakeholders on campus to determine if there is support of the ES core concept among campus. The motions was seconded, voted upon, and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.