

Essential Studies Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 31, 2020

10-11 a.m.

Zoom

Meeting Attendees: Brook Solberg, Craig Carlson, Jody Paulson, Karyn Plumm, Donovan Widmer, Forrest Ames, Brad Rundquist, Ashley Vigen, Kristen Boryswicz, Michael Dodge, Julie Robinson, Christina Fargo, Tim Burrows

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes April 24, 2020 (see attached) (Brooke)
 - a. Approved
2. Welcome to new committee members this year: Donovan Widmer, Julie Robinson, Craig Carlson, Jody Paulson, Brad Rundquist, Brenna Bertsch, Mason Plowman, William Prody (Brooke)
 - a. Committee member introductions
3. Student Petitions (if we have any) (Brooke)
 - a. None for this meeting
4. Chair-elect nomination announcement (Karyn)
 - a. Chair-elect will help review student petitions and works with the executive committee on matters that arise. This individual works with the current Chair on how the process works and must not be in there last year of the committee.
 - b. Karyn Plumm nominates Donovan Widmer for the next chair-elect. If you would like to nominate yourself for the position, let Karyn know by the next meeting, Thursday, September 17.
 - c. We will vote for the next Chair-elect at our next meeting, Thursday, September 17.
5. Alternative General Education Program (IGEA Team)
 - a. ND Gen Council has been trying to get some flexibility in the Gen Ed requirements from the system. Want to remove the discipline-specific breakout and move toward learning goals. ES has layers that confuse people. It is difficult to know all areas. The alternate general education program was approved. Institutions now have the ability to put forward an alternative gen ed proposal. We still must have 36 credits, breadth of knowledge, and specific learning outcomes. This will allow us to simplify ES. This could help us in linking assessment of learning goals to program assessment. Look at the materials Karyn posted on Blackboard. It includes WICHE, UND, NDUS, employee, and student priorities as possibilities. Would like to start having conversations across campus about the possibility of simplifying ES. Timeline is to take the fall semester to talk to all the departments. Spring semester after validations, look at ideas, and move forward from there.
6. Intersession Pilot Spring 2021- one-time offering (Karyn)
 - a. A call went out for proposals for intersession courses. Intersession is the 3 weeks between the fall and spring semesters. Could choose a special emphasis area. Try to get some students interest to see if students will like and enroll in these courses. As of today, we have 12 proposals that have been summited about 7 that would like it to be part of ES. The courses will next go to chairs and deans. If they approve the course, it then will come to the committee to see if we would like to add to ES. We may have some courses for our next meeting.

Next meeting Thursday, September 17, 10 – 11 a.m. via Zoom.