

## Essential Studies Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2022

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ZOOM

Meeting attendees: Kristen Borysewicz, Tim Burrows, Craig Carlson, Dawson Dutchak, Christina Fargo, Chris Felege, Thyra Knapp, Karyn Plumm, Julie Robinson, Brad Rundquist, Brooke Solberg, Donovan Widmer, Taylor Hanson Wald

1. Student petitions #5-(Student is requesting a waiver of 2 credits of MST)
  - a. Motion to approve, second, motion approved
2. ES proposal to include language for international baccalaureate degrees
  - a. Motion to approve, second, motion approved
3. Assessment Process, PLAs, OERs, program discussions
  - a. Assessment Process: Karyn is preparing a communication to go out to the instructors later this month. Tim and Karina are also setting up training for end of semester or summer to go over the rubric and discuss the outcome of the course.
  - b. PLA: Process for ES courses specifically, not by departments. We typically see ones for special emphasis areas under the intercultural knowledge & skills learning goal. Possibility of having the students write an essay which is presented to the committee to approve or deny. It would be best to have a couple questions/prompts that they answer instead of an essay format. Karyn will look into students who have submitted petitions before, and Chris Felege will reach out to those students to seek their opinion on what is best way to showcase their proficiency.
  - c. OERS: Some institutions have all general education courses use OERs and no materials are needed to be purchased. Possibility of asking faculty a standard question when they validate/revalidate if they use an OER and if not, would they like more information, and if they use purchase materials. Karyn will draft a possible encouragement/question.
  - d. Program discussions: BoK, special emphases, discussion about a cleaner way to provide learning goals to students. Looking at possible solutions to make it easier for students to navigate the ES program and learning goals. One possibility is to align BOK with learning goals so it is easier for students to understand. Discussion about broader changes to ES (e.g., via the strategic plan) that may resolve such issues.
4. Proposal to change learning goals acronyms: Intercultural Knowledge and Skills (formerly IKS) changed to IS, and Critical Inquiry and Analysis (formerly CIA) changed to CA
  - a. Motion to approve, second, discussion, motion denied