

MINUTES
General Education Committee
November 19, 2024
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Montecito Room

Members present: Gregg Afman (Professor of Kinesiology), Jana Mayfield Mullen (Director, Library & Information Services), Tatiana Nazarenko (Dean of Curriculum and Educational Effectiveness), Tara Sturges (Recording Secretary, Associate Registrar), Telford Work (Chair, Professor of Religious Studies)

Absent: Alister Chapman (Professor of History), Michelle Hardley (Registrar)

Guests: Lori Ann Banez (Director of the Career Resource Center)

I. Prayer – (none)

II. The minutes from October 22, 2024 and November 5, 2024

The minutes from October 22, 2024 and November 5, 2024 were approved with minor revisions.

III. The GE annual assessment report (Google Drive)

The committee continued discussing the GE annual assessment report. Further discussion is planned to continue reviewing the WSI portion of the report.

IV. Continued conversation on Oral Communication: Lori Ann Banez

The Director of the Career Resource Center provided information on the value of oral communication skills from the center's perspective. Discussion included topics such as the value of confident oral communication during job interviews and the benefits of implementing the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment tools. The director noted that, per feedback from local employers, Westmont students are generally highly skilled in long-term communication with improvement needed in articulating their competencies during job interviews.

V. Proposal to the Academic Senate re: Decoupling Writing-Intensive and Oral Communication courses

The committee engaged in preliminary discussion to consider drafting a proposal to decouple the Writing Intensive and Speech Intensive GE requirements.

Action Step: The chair of the GE Committee will facilitate a conversation with stakeholders to inform the consideration of drafting a proposal to decouple the WI and WS GE requirements. The conversation will include the members of the Communication Studies department, the vice-chair of Academic Senate, various members of the GE Committee.

VI. Serving Society/Communicating Cross-Culturally graduation requirement

The chair of the committee will compile suggestions for a future discussion to define Third Culture Kids and other certification criteria of the Compassionate Action graduation requirement.

VII. The JRD assessment: continuation

Discussion was postponed to a future date.

VIII. Other Business

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Sturges