

General Education Report for Faculty Senate Meeting: 1/16/2019

The General Education Committee met on Friday, Jan. 4, 2019 with the various board chairs (WI, Foundations, Diversification, Oral Communication, and Ethics Focus). Only the Chair for HAP was absent despite an invitation to attend. Pete Gross, Michael Cawdery, James West, and Gholam Khaleghi were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was for the boards to share information about matters concerning the Gen Ed Committee from the last academic year to the present, and for members to voice their concerns and/or plans regarding AY 2019.

Gholam Khaleghi was invited to speak about the recently proposed Sustainability (S) designation presented to FS by Eileen Cain. Eileen was invited to the meeting but could not attend. The Committee discussed whether "S" would be just a designation, or whether it would become a Focus requirement. The possibility of an Academic Subject Certificate was also raised. This month Gholam will meet with Eileen to learn more about what she envisions. It was agreed that it would be important to gauge the level of interest among faculty and students before making a decision.

Every board chair gave a brief account of the number of applications they had processed for new courses and renewals. This information is available on the FS web page from last May, the final report of the academic year.

James West gave an update on WICHE (Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education). He said it is in place and working, and that administrators and counselors are implementing it. Dean Goodman will be holding an informational meeting next week to update the Gen Ed Committee on the latest developments regarding WICHE.

Carleen Yokotake reported that her OC board met and decided how to manage their membership. They will start accepting applications in the Fall of 2019. The Board wants to make 1 change to membership: they want 7 members instead of 6. At present, they do not have a member from the Social Sciences Division. However, they will have representation from at least 4 divisions.

At the end of the meeting, the question of assigned time was broached, in particular with regard to Board chairs. It was suggested that we have a more general discussion about policies to clarify who is eligible for it, what activities would qualify, how much time would be assigned, etc. If no one on FS knows the answers, perhaps an administrator could come and speak to us about it.

