

**UNC GREENSBORO  
GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**Friday, August 30, 2024  
1:30 - 3:30 PM • Faculty Center**

**Members Present:**

Jessica McCall, Hunter Bacot, Raina Barnett, Angela Bolte, Sarah Cervenak, Jim Coleman, Kristie Davis-Collins, Veronica Grossi, Andrew Hamilton, Daniel Huebner, Izzet Lofca, Jessica Obermeyer, Jodi Pettazzoni, Gary Rosenkrantz, Jeff Sarbaum, Dana Saunders, Natalie Sowell

Members Absent: Melody Rood

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair welcomed everyone; self-introductions followed.

**II. Orientation to the General Education Council**

Chair provided an overview of the Council's charge, member expectations, meeting flow, and general business of Council. Meeting attendance is important; a 3 absence per year limit is in alignment with Senate. Members are encouraged to send a proxy if they are unable to make the meeting.

Dana Saunders shared information on petitions for General Education credit (advisor appeals). More information is available in the Council's SharePoint folder.

**III. Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2024; summer approvals**

Motion to approve April 12, 2024, meeting minutes and summer approval minutes (Coleman, Sarbaum), motion approved with 2 abstentions.

**IV. MAC Appeals**

- 78188 – Request to allow ATY 235 to satisfy MAC Diversity & Equity competency.  
Action: Motion to approve as one time exception (Cervenak, Rosenkrantz), motion approved.
- 78219 – Request to allow UNIV 1101 to satisfy MAC Foundations competency.  
Action: Motion to reject (Sarbaum, Coleman), motion approved with 1 abstention. The course does not align with the MAC Foundations SLOs.
- 78222 – Request to allow BIOL 245 to satisfy MAC Data Analysis and Interpretation in the Natural Sciences competency.  
Action: Motion to reject (Coleman, Lofca), motion approved. Course does not align with MAC Data Analysis SLOs.
- 78373 – Request to allow HUM 2010 to satisfy MAC Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities & Fine Arts competency.  
Action: Motion to approve (Rosenkrantz, Coleman), motion approved.

## **V. Spartans Thrive & MAC Foundations**

- Update on summer workshops.

Chair shared an update on the QEP integration with Foundations. Many Foundations courses now have the Health & Wellness component; two workshops were hosted over the summer; a module was designed to incorporate H&W. This will be required for all Foundations courses starting in Fall 2025.

Chair thanked Judy Fowler and DeAnne Brooks for their work.

## **VI. Recertification & Assessment update**

- Fall assessment:
  - Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities and Fine Arts
  - Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Natural Sciences
  - Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Recertification:
  - Diversity & Equity
  - Global Engagement & Intercultural Learning
  - Oral Communication
  - Written Communication

These are ongoing. Jodi and Jessica are working on a proposal for faculty development.

## **VII. Chair-elect:**

- Nomination and election of Chair-elect for the year 2024-2025.

Council will elect a Chair-elect at the next meeting.

## **VIII. IC Update**

- **Foundations of American Democracy Requirement (FUSS 400.1.5.II.9)**

Andrew Hamilton shared that the UNC System added a new mandate to the Regulation Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success (FUSS), which requires the university to offer a course or courses in the Foundations of American Democracy but does not stipulate the way in which the content is offered.

### **FUSS 400.1.5.II.9**

UNC System policy now requires that every student who is awarded a baccalaureate degree must “successfully complete a course or courses covering the foundations of American democracy.” The policy further stipulates two sets of learning outcomes that must be the course(s) “must substantively include:”

- i. Evaluate key concepts, principles, arguments, and contexts in founding documents of the American republic, including the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and a representative selection of the Federalist Papers; and,
- ii. Evaluate key milestones in progress and challenges in the effort to form “a more perfect Union,” including the arguments and contexts surrounding the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Letter from Birmingham Jail, as well as other texts that reflect the breadth of American experiences.

This policy goes into effect for the 2025-2026 catalog.

Council reviewed the Foundations of American Democracy Requirement along with options for completing the requirement. Discussion followed:

- There is no credit requirement attached to the policy.
- Courses have not been cross walked.
- Recommended to offer this content in a 3-credit course rather than 1-credit.
- Option 1 - could be offered as a NEW university requirement (new course) as it adds 3 credits to what students are already taking.
- Option 2 – do not make this a new requirement, swap out an existing requirement.
- Suggestion to add a marker.
- Could this be addresses with an asynchronous online course students would take prior to orientation?
- We need to offer something that supports our students in their growth and learning.
- Add to an existing MAC competency:
  - Modify Foundations to include the FoAD outcomes. Council recently approved integration of QEP into Foundations; several departments have disciplinary based Foundation courses.
  - Modify Diversity & Equity to include the FoAD outcomes.
  - Replace Data Analysis (combine CTI NS & Data Analysis)
  - Add a 12<sup>th</sup> competency.
- Is this a MAC/general education problem?
  - The Council could decide this should not be part of the general education program.
  - If this is not included in the MAC, a small number of departments that have expertise would create a course or work with departments to integrate the content into other courses. It would be left up to every program to figure out how to include the outcomes.
  - We will have to assess these outcomes on a regular basis.
- We cannot extend beyond the 120 credit hours.
- Suggestion to add a new competency, adding this to an existing competency could infringe on academic freedom.
- What are other UNC System schools doing?
- The conclusion should not create an undue burden on students for completion of degrees.

Council members are asked to review the document and provide feedback prior to the September 13 meeting. If members choose to share, please do so with context.

## **IX. Other Discussion Items**