

UNC GREENSBORO
GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL
MINUTES
Friday, March 28, 2025
1:30 - 3:30 PM • Faculty Center

Members present: Jessica McCall, Hunter Bacot, Kara Bisceglie, Angela Bolte, Sarah Cervenak, Jim Coleman, Kristie Davis-Collins, Hannah Grannemann, Daniel Huebner, Izzet Lofca, Jodi Pettazzoni, Gary Rosenkrantz, Jeff Sarbaum, Dana Saunders

Guests: Eric Willie, School of Music, Faculty Fellow

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Approval of Minutes from February 10, and February 14, 2025

Motion to approve February 10, 2025, and February 14, 2025, meeting minutes (Coleman, Cervenak); minutes approved as submitted.

II. MAC Appeals

- 81903– Request to allow BIO 277 to satisfy MAC Critical Thinking & Inquiry in the Natural Sciences competency.
Action: Motion to reject (Coleman, Cervenak); motion approved. The course content/learning outcomes do not align with the CTI Natural Science learning outcomes.
- 82145– Request to allow GST 216 to satisfy MAC Quantitative Reasoning competency.
Action: Motion to approve (Coleman, Cervenak); motion approved with one recusal
- 82146 – Request to allow GNS 112 to satisfy MAC Health & Wellness competency.
Action: Motion to approve (Cervenak, Rosenkrantz); motion approved with 1 recusal
- 82147 - Request to allow GST 120 to satisfy MAC Critical Thinking & Inquiry in the Social & Behavioral Sciences competency.
Action: Motion to approve (Rosenkrantz, Sarbaum); motion approved with on recusal
- 82149 – Request to allow GST 112 to satisfy MAC Data Analysis and Interpretation competency.
Action: Motion to approve (Cervenak, Lofca); motion approved with one recusal and one abstention

- 82150 – Request to allow Moral Ethics to satisfy MAC Critical Thinking and Inquiry in the Humanities & Fine Arts competency.
Action: Motion to table (Coleman, Bacot); motion approved. As submitted, there is not enough information to decide; request an assignment to demonstration critical thinking.
- 87 – Request to allow MAT 301 (UNCG course) to satisfy MAC Quantitative Reasoning competency.
Action: Motion to approve (Cervenak, Bacot); motion approved with one abstention.

III. Alumni Fund for the Enrichment of Liberal Arts Education

Chair shared the following announcement provided by Emily Britt, Donor Experience Officer:

Thanks to the generosity of four Class of 1972 alumni, General Education has been provided with \$5,000 to be spent annually for the next 5 years, totaling \$25,000. Funds in the account will be used to enhance student experiences within the General Education Program. Purposes for which funds might be used include, but are not limited to field trips, guest speakers, discussion groups, seminars, training for new/creative pedagogy, unique teaching strategies or opportunities, etc. Funds will be spent at the recommendation of the General Education Council and/or the General Education Council Chair to the Associate Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies or their successors.

Jessica and Lynn will meet with the donors during their visiting campus April 14 to discuss their ideas. This is a terrific opportunity for general education faculty.

Council will continue discussion at the next meeting.

Points to consider:

- Create a process for spending funds.
 - Application
 - Open call
 - Specify an amount/cap the number of awards (i.e., 5 requests up to \$1000 or 1 request of \$5000)
 - Guidance should include suggestions and dollar amounts.
 - Funds cannot be issued directly to students as it could affect financial aid awards.
- Suggestions/ideas
 - Speaker
 - Student experiences/field trips
 - Games
 - Stipend for course development
- Create a subcommittee to review applications/proposals.
 - Develop rubrics.
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- First \$5,00.00 should be spent by end of CY 2025

IV. Senate Constitution – Charge of Gen Ed Council

- **Membership**

Chair said that legal counsel suggested a revision the charge of the General Education Council in the constitution. The suggestion is to remove the “as requested by committee.” Membership: Voting Members of the General Faculty elected from the electoral divisions—six (6) from the College of Arts and Sciences, and one (1) from each of the other electoral divisions--plus one (1) Senator appointed by the Chair of the Senate. Non-voting members may be appointed by the Provost as requested by the Committee.

Discussion concerned the reasons for the change. As faculty, the general education program is our responsibility, removing this statement takes away the responsibility. Without a rationale, Council voted to reject the suggestion. Motion to respond to Senate, “Without further explanation, Council does not approve the recommendation.” (Coleman, Huebner), motion approved.

- **Non-voting student member**

Chair shared Faculty Senate communication asking Council to consider adding non-voting student members.

Currently, students are members or non-voting members of several Senate committees. They have requested to have more representation. The Senate Executive Committee and the Senate have decided to reject the idea of having student members of the Faculty Senate or its committees have voting rights. They did agree to consider expanding the number of ex-officio, non-voting student members on several additional Senate committees. The General Education Council is one of their requests. Council is asked to consider adding one or two additional student non-voting members.

Dana reminded members that Council members review appeals which include student record information. If student representatives are added, Council would need to rethink how information is being presented/discussed. An administrative session could be added to meetings, meeting agendas could be revised. Council is not resistant to student non-voting members and would appreciate student voices however there are pragmatic issues (FERPA, HIPPA). Suggestion to invite SGA representatives to one meeting a month or quarter. Kristie shared that Nursing’s accrediting body requires student representation on their committees. Chair will go back to Senate with concerns and offer alternatives.

Gary shared that updates to the constitution will distinguish between approval and final approval.

V. QEP and Civics & Community Development Opportunities

Chair said that there are upcoming faculty development opportunities for faculty teaching MAC Foundations and Civics & Community courses. Council approved the integration of QEP (Spartans Thrive) module in all Foundations courses beginning fall 2026. A second round of training will be held later this semester (funding is available).

Other opportunities:

- ‘Teaching in the First’, May 14 for faculty teaching 100/200 level courses.
- MAC Institute, May 19 (9am-3pm). The morning session will focus on Civics & Community and the afternoon session will include breakout groups for the other 10 competencies. Council members are invited to attend.

VI. Assessment Update

Dean Martin shared MAC Assessment workshops will take place May 15 and 16 to review CTI student work products.

VII. Announcements/Other

Jodi reminded Council that last year the committee approved piloting Data Analysis & Interpretation outside of the Natural Sciences. We have reached out to some departments (generally in the Social & Behavioral Sciences) to get courses ready for fall or spring in the hopes to collect data Council requested in order to move forward with removing “in the Natural Sciences” from the Data Analysis & Interpretation competency. Pilot courses are non-MAC courses that are foundational (100/200-level).

Discussion about the intention/original vision of Data Analysis competency. We will need to revisit the rubric and align it with the other competencies.