

Eastern Michigan University  
College of Arts and Sciences  
College Advisory Council Minutes  
April 20, 2023, 3:30-5:00pm

Attendance: Melissa Jones (WGST and Chair), Grigoris Argeros (SAC), Peter Blackmer (AAAS), Joe Breza (Psych), Philip Cardon (SAD), James Egge (Dean's Office), Chris Gellasch (G&G), Jason Gibson (M&S), Katy Greenwald (Bio), Heather Holmes (Chem), Debra Ingram (Dept Head M&S), John Koolage (Gen Ed Director), Marianne Laporte (Bio), John McCurdy (H&P), Biswajit Panja (CS), Barry Pyle (PS), Jonathan Skuza (P&A), Amanda Stype (Econ), Annette Wannamaker (Engl), and Jamie Ward (CMTA)

I. Jones called the meeting to order at 3:31pm.

II. Holmes moved and Argeros seconded to approve the minutes of April 6, 2023. The motion passed 15-0-0.

III. Visitor John Koolage (Director, General Education Program) came to talk about the Gen Ed program. He named the committees and described their duties: GE Advisory Council, Subcommittee for Assessment, Subcommittee for Student Success, Subcommittee for Teaching and Learning, Subcommittee for Writing Intensive, Subcommittee for Course Vetting, Subcommittee for Integrative and Applied Learning. He explained that committee members are appointed by the Faculty Senate. He explained that a goal for Gen Ed was to assess courses.

Jones reported that it is commonly believed that programs cannot include Gen Ed courses in their majors. Koolage responded that this is not true. However, the Vetting Subcommittee takes a look at where the course fits into a major, and that no student can use two courses with the same prefix to satisfy a single Gen Ed category. Wannamaker reported that there are rumors that Gen Ed will soon be revised. Koolage responded that this is not true as it would take several years to do so. Blackmer asked if Vetting is writing down the criteria, and Koolage responded that it is currently doing so. Blackmer also asked about the role of the Faculty Development Center to help with proposal writing, which Koolage said was not currently the case. Stype asked what the biggest issue with Gen Ed that CAC should be aware of. Koolage said that help is needed in Vetting and Assessment. Jones asked about the Converge app, which Koolage said is still a work in progress. Jones asked if there could be a focus group to improve the Converge app, and Koolage welcomed the idea. Gellasch asked when will Gen Ed will assess every class. Koolage responded that it was supposed to happen this year, but will happen over the next two years instead.

IV. Holmes presented the Sciences Subcommittee report from the April 13, 2023 meeting. Stype moved and Holmes seconded to approve the report. The motion passed 15-0-0.

Jones presented the Arts Subcommittee report from the April 13, 2023 meeting. Stype moved and Gellasch seconded to approve the report. The motion passed 15-0-0.

V. There was no Personnel Subcommittee report.

Jones reported that the Budget Subcommittee met to discuss items it will take up in the fall. Specifically, it would like to update Faculty Release Allocations to account for positions like EMU Band director and Forensics Team director that receives release time but is not tied to credit hour production. Laporte asked if the recommendations for graduate coordinator releases will be enacted for the 2023-24 year, but Jones indicated that Budget Subcommittee is still working on this and will make a recommendation in the fall at the earliest.

VI. Associate Dean Egge presented a request from the COE. He reported that secondary education is important to CAS and that six years ago the secondary education majors were split between COE and CAS. Recently, the State of Michigan issued new standards and so all of the programs are undergoing revision. Secondary Education English, Secondary Education Math, and Secondary Education Teaching and Learning are currently undergoing revisions. The Provost is trying to reduce all undergraduate programs to 120 hours. However, Teaching and Learning is increasing the number of required COE courses by reducing the number of CAS courses required by the major. This means that in the Secondary Education Science major, there are no upper-division Science courses.

Gellasch advocated pushing back against the COE demands. Stype expressed frustration with previous attempts to partner with COE team teaching courses. Laporte expressed support for reducing the number of credit hours in the teaching majors, and suggested that the CAS support team teaching.

VII. Jones thanked the members of the CAC for their hard work.

Gellasch announced that he will be leaving the CAC next year as will McCurdy and Argeros.

VIII. Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
John G. McCurdy