**Discovery Committee Minutes, February 19, 2025 (Zoom)**

**Present:** Nicky Gullace (chair), Timothy Montminy (vice-chair), Sachiko Akiyama, Chris Bauer, Lara Demarest, Maeve Dion, Roger Grinde, Lisa MacFarlane, Greg McMahon, Kenneth Mitchell, Wendy Pothier, Forrest Schwartz, Anna Wainwright
**Absent:** Meaghan Dittrich, Catherine Pebbles, Laura Upham

## I. Welcome and Announcements

## II. Action Items

- Minutes
  **Motion**: Maeve Dion moved and Wendy Pothier seconded approval of the February 5, 2025, meeting minutes.
  **Vote**: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0. **Minutes approved.**

- Student Petitions
  1. Request to allow Keene State transfer course SPDI 170: Intro to Woodworking Technology to satisfy FPA.
     **Vote**: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 2. **Petition approved.** (bsceps020625)
  2. Request to allow UNH course MATH 418: Analysis & Application of Functions to satisfy QR.
     **Vote**: Yes 0, No 8, Abstain 0. **Petition denied.** (bbcola021125)
  3. Request to allow UNH course CS 400: Intro to Computing to satisfy ETS.
     **Vote**: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 0. **Petition approved.** (bbcola021125)

## III. Discussion

Discussion about recent directives from the federal government regarding DEI and the potential impact to IDEA

- UNH's administration and general counsel is advising to "stay the course" as we are in compliance with all laws.
- University of North Carolina has removed all DEI requirements from their general education curriculum,
- Concern was expressed about external groups pressuring the university to take action against DEI initiatives.

Discussion about Granite Core (GC)

- Concern was expressed about the current Discovery Committee's lack of involvement in the gen ed curriculum revision process. Considering previous attempts have failed, it seems like the DC should have some input.
- Nicky explained she is a non-voting member of the GC and had a teaching conflict with when the committee met. She gave a brief background on the formation of the current committee and the recommendations from a previous committee, General Education Review Committee, GERC. GERC recommended against a total revamp. Instead, the DC should propose small incremental changes to Discovery. The Senate did not take suggestion and voted to create what is now the GC.
- There is frustration with the process and skepticism about whether the new proposal will ultimately pass.
- The Senate has not adequately communicated what is happening. There used to be regular newsletters sent out which helped keep faculty informed but those no longer are sent.
- Given the current budget crisis, is it wise to try to implement such a big change right now? There has been no review of how the proposed curriculum would impact the university financially. When Discovery was first implemented the financial implications were considered.
- There are some departments that, if the proposal is approved, will be affected greatly.
- It was pointed out that a general education curriculum is only as good as its implementation and advising. If they are not good, students will still feel like gen ed is perfunctory box-checking.
- Not all senators are good about relying on information back to their departments and did not share the Qualtrics surveys where faculty could submit feedback.
- The latest Qualtrics survey link was shared with the DC.

- It was pointed out that, without seeing the actual proposed framework, it is difficult to offer meaningful feedback.
- Another concern is that CPSO has a different gen ed curriculum. Upper administration wants them to align, but CPSO feels their current curriculum works for their students. However, because UNH issues one diploma, the implication is that all UNH students are receiving the same curriculum. Additionally, this may be a problem for accreditation.
- There is notable pushback in the senate and the conversations about GC are contentious.
- Lara created a new folder in the DC's SharePoint site with all of the documents regarding GC that have been made available to the Senate.

Next Meeting March 5, 2025
Meeting adjourned 2:00 pm