

Discovery Committee April 30, 2025:

Present: Nicky Gullace (Chair), Lisa MacFarlane, Wendy Pothier, Sachiko Akiyama, Roger Grinde, Greg McMahon, Tim Montminy, Anna Wainwright, Catherine Peebles, Laura Upham, Meaghan Dittrich,

- I. **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes made by Greg, seconded by Wendy. All agree unanimously to pass minutes from previous meeting.

Vote: Yes 8, No 0, Abstain 1.

- II. **Student Petitions:**

1. Request to allow MMG 141 Intro to Human Genetics from Michigan State to count for BS. **Petition approved.**
2. Request to count HMG 771 Int Wine & Bev for WC: objections because it does not appear to be a world cultures course. **Petition denied.**
3. Request to count HMG 771 Int Wine & Bev for WC (same as prior petition)
 - a. **Action:** Reach out to Sharon McCrone that the courses do not meet Disco requirements? **Petition denied.**

- III. **Administrative Updates:** Lara's position not fulfilled until July 1 new fiscal year (50% Disco and 50% Fac Senate)

- IV. **Course Approvals:**

1. Italian 631 & 632. No SLOs. Proposal to let students take the course for up to 8 credits (being able to get credit twice for the same course). **Course Approved.**
2. Kinesiology 690: Proposal to approve Study Abroad class on European football for WC. Questions/discussion regarding how much time is actually spent abroad. **Course Approved.**

- V. **Discussion Items:**

- a. Matt McMannes as new VPAA relayed that Associate Deans request committee reduce enforcement of the syllabus guidelines. Two rationales for enforcing syllabi recommendations: 1) compliance with NECHE. 2) Transparency and clarity for students. This is our only method for reviewing courses or having any sense of regulation/ oversight over our program's

curriculum standards. The CIM is now our primary tool for auditing these courses.

b. Veterans and World Cultures Petitions

Update on a veteran's WC petition: ASAC approved the petition despite concerns, primarily to resolve the situation expediently.

Discussion on the challenge of evaluating veterans' experiences for WC credit and the need for more consistent standards.

Committee acknowledged the complexity of applying WC criteria to veterans and agreed to revisit the issue in the future.

c. Other Business

Recognition of administrative challenges and reliance on goodwill and limited resources until the new fiscal year.

Acknowledgment of the need for clearer communication and process consistency, especially regarding petitions and course approvals.

Discussion about value and importance of general education and points about what the strategy is for next year as the Gen Ed review committee and proposal for reform.

Farewells to Lisa as she retires!

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting date to be determined following the July 1 staffing update.

Action Items:

- a. Nicoletta to communicate with Sharon McCrone regarding course petition decisions.
- b. Prepare for future discussion on veterans' petitions and WC standards.
- c. Monitor administrative staffing and support transition for the upcoming fiscal year.
- d. Minutes respectfully submitted by Meaghan Dittrich & Nicoletta Gullace