

Discovery Committee Minutes October 22, 2025 (Teams)

Present: Nicoletta Gullace (Chair), Timothy Montminy, Gregory McMahon, Kathrine Aydelott, Forrest Schwartz, Alecia Magnifico, Qi Zhang, Laura Upham, Roger Grinde, Anna Wainwright, Catherine Peebles, Grace Simmons

Absent: Maeve Dion, Sachiko Akiyama, Meaghan Dittrich, Matthew MacManes

- I. Welcome
- II. Action Items
 - a. Approval of the Minutes from the October 8th meeting.
Vote: Yes: 6, No: 0, Abstain: 0. **Minutes Approved.**
 - b. Student Petitions. None at this time.
 - c. Course Approvals.
 - i. MARI 795- Crafting Ocean Stories: Research and Writing for the Public in Marine Science & Ocean Engineering. New course for WI.
Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0, Abstain: 0. **Course Approved for WI.**
 - ii. CEE 400: Introduction to Civil and Environmental Engineering
Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0, Abstain: 0. **Course Approved for ETS and INQ**
 - iii. INCO 685: Study Abroad
Vote: Yes: 7, No: 0, Abstain: 0. **Fee change approved.**
- III. Updates & Discussion
 - a. General Education Revision Report
 - i. Anna Wainwright gave an overview of what the Academic Programs Committee is charged with for the Academic Year
 - ii. The APC has been charged with taking the proposed General Education Program from the Ad Hoc committee and revising it. Take what was passed by the Senate last year (mission, vision, values) and incorporate it into the Program Learning outcomes. The APC is revising the program's learning outcomes and starting to think about a new framework for the GenEd program. The APC is working on the new framework and does not have anything to present yet, but once it is ready to go, it will be shared with the Discovery Committee.
 - iii. The proposed learning outcomes were shared for the committee to review with the understanding that they are learning outcomes not the framework of the program.
 - iv. The chair shared concerns that we would adopt learning outcomes that sound good but that any major by default would be teaching the learning outcomes. A question was asked about how the APC will balance these two things when the framework is supposed to grow out of a set of learning outcomes that are generic? The framework does grow out of the learning outcomes in an abstract way. There are NECHE requirements that must be followed along with the Mission vision values that specify a

liberal arts education. The APC is focused on how students will get interdisciplinary experience and knowledge through different courses.

- v. A question was asked if the results from the Civil Discourse conversation would be included in the committee's review efforts and is there a way to create a framework that is marketable and exciting for students.
- vi. A comment was shared that the proposed learning outcomes are not written in a way that would get students excited about learning. They are rather complex and wordy learning objectives. Additionally, the series of learning outcomes suggested can set up a flexibility issue like the current concern for the program.
- vii. Both the survey and the CDL dialogue feedback are being reviewed by the APC so that the general education program can be palpable, robust, and marketable to students.
- viii. The student rep from the academic affairs council shared that the AAC filled out the form and APC received the feedback. They shared that most of the members were confused about the Discovery Program and that the new learning outcomes and framework were being compared to what is known now versus from a different perspective. They shared making the SLO very easy and understanding so that students know what they are learning. The student body agrees that it is a priority to meet the needs of the students on campus that can't fulfill the GenEd requirement based on their major of choice, for example engineering.
- ix. An observation was shared about speaking about education as a cash grab which goes against the idea of an academic rigorous thing. Now we are in a position that needs students, and we need to put together a program that is attractive to students.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55pm.

Next Committee meeting is November 5th, 2025.