

Ethical Reasoning ESLO Committee Annual Report for 2016-2017 Academic Year.

Committee Members: Yasha Rohwer (chair), Humanities and Social Sciences; Franny Howes, Communication; Mike Pierce, Management; Travis Lund, Natural Sciences; James Hulse, Respiratory Care.

Responsibilities of the committee:

The Ethical Reasoning ESLO committee's responsibilities have evolved over time and are continuing to evolve. We have just been informed that these groups will no longer persist as committees, but rather "learning communities". Our main focus this year has been working closely with GEAC to help think constructively about how to implement the new general education model and to assist in activities that would further the implementation of the model and help us better understand the work needed and the processes involved for implementation of the model.

Council Activities:

Fall: The committee was given its major charges for the year in this quarter and was charged to...

- 1) Reviewing the rubric and definitions of the Ethical Reasoning (ER) ESLO.
- 2) Approve essential practice tags for potential ER ESLO courses (and foundational ER courses, where appropriate).
- 3) Review the process of tag applications.
- 4) Pilot the approval process for courses being submitted for the ER program-integrated foundational course.

Winter: The committee was charged to...

- 1) Answer questions that came up as programs attempted to map their programs with the new model. The questions were:

ER1) Two programs have identified foundational courses with other tags as their program-integrated ethical reasoning foundation (Psychology identified PSY 203; PHM identified SOC 204). Is this a problem as long (as long they don't double dip)? Could other programs use these courses as program-integrated ethics or not?

ER2) A few programs had trouble identifying an appropriate course within their program. Can we prepare examples and suggestions for them?

Spring: The committee received no new charges but we were able to finish up the remaining work—especially having to do with answering the above questions.

Accomplishments:

The committee did an excellent job accomplishing all of the charges given to us this year. We approved 4 ER essential practice courses and 2 program-integrated

foundational courses (both had either a HUM or PHIL prefix). We reviewed and slightly revised the rubric and definitions of the ER ESLO. These edits were sent on to Nellie in the Spring Term. We piloted the course tagging process for the foundational program-integrated courses and found the process to work very well. We only “rejected” one course, due to a lack of supporting documentation.

In addition, we discussed via email the questions that we received and agreed that there would be no issues with other programs using the program integrated course of other programs (or other programs identifying two courses that could meet that outcome) as long as they are not double dipping and especially if they are related programs.

The committee further thought that instead of coming out with some basic suggestions for programs having difficulty identifying a foundational course in their program, that the committee should meet with these programs to help them better understand the ESLO and pick an appropriate course to meet that outcome. This activity seems like a probable core activity for the future of the committee as it currently stands.

Additional:

James Hulse, Respiratory Care, is retiring from the university and so will no longer be able to serve on the ER ESLO committee in whatever form it takes in the future.

All the Best,

Dr. Yasha Rohwer
Chair, Ethical Reasoning ESLO committee