Summary of Student Focus Group in Response to GE Campus Forum

Student Veterans, September 18, 2019

Summary verified by student participant Theo Lewis-Lawrence (Philosophy)

Student majors represented:

- Computer Science
- International Relations
- Kinesiology
- Philosophy
- Psychology and Sociology
- Communication Sciences and Disorders

Overall thoughts about Pathway/GE Minor Names:

- Unanimous preference to avoid overtly political names, especially Social Justice and Climate Crisis, words that “have been weaponized.” A majority included the word “global” in this list of controversial names (“globalist”).
- Unanimous belief that courses have to be appropriate and relevant to the Pathway name, especially for “skills” Pathway names (e.g. Data Analytics needs specific courses).
- Preference for skills-based names, possibly including both Research Methods and Data Analytics, but if only one then Research Methods (or Applied Research)
- A majority believe that names need to be honest: Great Books and Ideas as “Great Works in Western Ideology”
- A majority believed that “buzzwords,” in general, should be avoided.
- Against names that “sound good” but may not work in practice (Transformational Leadership).

Preference for Pathway/GE Minor Names from Campus Forum:

- Cultural Studies
- Ethics, Justice, and Policy (renamed as Communal Ethics)
- Data Analytics (if courses are appropriate)
- Health and Wellness
- International Studies
- Research Methods (or Applied Research)
- Science and Technology (not Values)

Preference for Pathway Combinations from GE Forum (against other combinations):

- FOOD and HW (unanimous)
- INT and GDS (unanimous, renamed as International Studies)
- GDS and SUST (renamed with words “International” and “Sustainability”)

Dislike of Pathway/GE Minor Names from Campus Forum:

- The Arts and Social Change
- California Studies
- Curiosity and Innovation
- Design Thinking
- Global [anything]
- Inclusive Practices
- Intersectionalities
- Research, Inquiry, and Data
- Analytics
- Social Justice
- Transformational Leadership