

General Education Committee

February 23, 2009 – HUB 123

MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II, Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Deborah H. John, John C. Krueckeberg, Robert S. Miller, Evelyn M. Stiller (Chair), Eun-ho Yeo (new faculty, non-voting), David Zehr [seven voting members]

Absent: D. Benjamin Dearth (student, voting)

Vacant: Dean of the Academic Experience

Presenters of Proposals: Elizabeth Ahl, James Whiting

Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed. Evelyn Stiller called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

II. Proposals [sunset date becomes 5/2013]:

- a. LL 2950 Language Acquisition: proposed as SIDI. *Approved 7-0-0-1.*
- b. EN 3090 Technical Communication (TECO): proposed as WRCO. *Approved 7-0-0-1.*
- c. EN 3670 Journalism (TECO): proposed as WRCO. *Approved 7-0-0-1.*
- d. EN 2200 The Art of Film: proposed as CTDI. *Approved 7-0-0-1.*

III. Report to Faculty. Robert had e-mailed the Committee a copy of his 'General Education Report to Faculty'. It addresses the charges from the Provost as well as the November motion from the Social Science Department; either are major changes, not tweaks to the principles and goals. The only charge from the Faculty was whether we agreed or not with the Social Science Department.

Staffing issues. Full-time tenure-track faculty versus adjuncts. Credentials of adjuncts. Faculty workload Less pressure to teach Directions.

Limit enrollment to first year and sophomore students who need the Directions? Some majors are so frontloaded that most of General Education is taken during the last two years.

If Provost insisted to make the program smaller, cut the Connections. Have First Year Experience courses (9 credits) and Directions and three Connections. The program is the size it needed to be to do what we wanted the program to do.

WAC has been so successful that it permeates throughout the curriculum. In the old program, the General Education Committee did not approve the Writing course (WRIT); departments just reported their WRIT to the General Education Committee.

Seven people in the Social Science Department do not teach Directions; they teach Connections. Have to keep three Connections to be in line with NEASC.

Do not call "Connections in the Discipline" (QRCO, TECO, WRCO) Connections; perhaps call them 'competencies in the discipline.' Deleting QRCO, TECO and WRCO does not speak to the need for Directions or the size of the Gen Ed program; it would not be problem solving. They don't need to be articulated in General Education because the competency should be in the major.

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Motion One: *approved 6-1-0-1.*

Motion Two: *approved 6-1-0-1.*

Evelyn will send the document to the entire faculty and the two motions to the Faculty Speaker.

- IV. David on summer orientation and registering incoming student. David is proposing to modify the schedule on day 2 of the June New Student Orientation sessions. The time that is now used for schedule planning/registration would be given to the departments to do something with their majors. All new students would be prescheduled into all of their courses, including Directions, except First Year Seminar. Due to the new Add/Drop deadlines, web registration will remain open following the last June Orientation session until the add/drop period ends. Students, including these new students, will be able to add and drop courses online. This proposal has been discussed with the Provost, the Registrar, the First Year Council, and will be presented to the Council of Chairs. There really is little choice in the Directions when students come for New Student Orientation because of the lack of seats. We're conceding that we have minimal offerings about Directions. It was suppose to be about choice and there is no actual choice. "Choice" came from the Implementation Task Force.

A motion to continue the General Education status for the courses that changed at the February 20th Curriculum Committee, as reported by Mary Campbell, was made, seconded, and *approved 6-0-0-2.*

- I. Approve minutes from January 22, 2009. No action.
Approve minutes from February 9th. No action.

- V. Robert on his deadline motion. No action.

- VI. Committee Reports. No time left in today's meeting.
a. Curriculum Committee.
b. Steering Committee.

- VII. Next meeting March 9.

The General Education Committee meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in HUB 123. The next meeting of the Committee will be **March 9th**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

These minutes were approved March 9, 2009.