

General Education Committee

November 10, 2008 – HUB 123

MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II (2:32 pm), Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), D. Benjamin Dearth (student, voting), Wilson A. Garcia, Deborah H. John (2:34 pm), Robert S. Miller, Evelyn M. Stiller (Chair), Eun-ho Yeo (new faculty, non-voting, 2:50 pm), David Zehr [eight voting members]

Absent: Daniel P. Moore

Excused: Ezra X. Dalton (student, voting), Robert E. Fitzpatrick (sabbatical), John C. Krueckeberg (sabbatical)

Presenters of Proposals: Robin DeRosa, Steve Gorin, David Mackey

Guest: Barbara Boschmans

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

- I. The minutes of the October 27th meeting were *approved as distributed 6-0-0-4*.
- II. Proposals for renewals [sunset date becomes 5/2013]:
 - a. SW 3050 Perspectives on Aging: renewal as WECO; *approved 8-0-0-2*.
 - c. EN 2250 Identity and Difference in American Literature: renewal as DICO; *approved 8-0-0-2*.
 - b. ENDI 2320 Settling the American West: Women and Men on the Overland Trail; renewal as PPDI; *approved 8-0-0-2*.
 - d. CJ/PY 3150 Society, Ethics and the Law: renewal as DICO and INCO; *approved 8-0-0-2*.
- III. Student Concerns. No discussion due to Ezra's absence.
- IV. Correction of the General Education renewal form (remove Curriculum Committee vote). This vote is not necessary for courses seeking renewal. The Committee agreed that it should be removed. Mary will attend to this change.
- V. Faculty meeting and Forum on General Education (depending on vote outcome). No rationale had been given for the Social Science Department's motion at the Faculty meeting—That the Directions portion of the General Education program be reduced to require one 3-4 credit course per Direction (Creative Thought, Self and Society, Past and Present, and Scientific Inquiry) instead of the two courses per Direction currently required. The 12 credits saved will be used for free electives (which includes minors)—which was presented in an unclear manner. Evelyn spoke briefly to Bob Heiner, Assistant Chair of the Social Science Department, sometime after the meeting. The Department really wanted double counting. We wish the Social Science Department had spoken to us as a Committee. Perhaps we could invite the Social Science Department to a General Education Committee meeting. We are interested to know what their rationale is.

Kathleen Arcchi e-mailed the Committee November 9th her thoughts on the proposed change to the Directions component. Her rationale for the motion is worthy of our attention. Terry Downs e-mailed the faculty. We could invite those who wrote the motion to give a rationale. If they don't have a rationale, it would be a waste of time to have them come. We could ask others, invite them to

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send us messages or invite them to our meeting. We received a rationale from the Provost; one member preferred to respond to the Provost.

Marcia wants a reduction; no mention of double counting or waiver. The Forum on General Education was called by the Social Science Department. Kate Donahue spoke once about double counting but it was not mentioned again.

The handout from the Social Science Department at the Faculty meeting describing their motion contradicts the Catalog description of the credits required for General Education [see page 65 of the 2008-09 Academic Catalog]. The Catalog prints what the Faculty passed. It includes the footnote--** These Connections [QRCO, TECO, WRCO] are three-credit experiences taken as part of the major and hence add no credits to those required of the major.—because the Faculty designed it that way. Go to the original proposal and the rationale for it. The General Education Taskforce worked for three years and did assessment; it also looked at double-counting. The Taskforce wanted QRCO, TECO and WRCO to be part of the major. If those reasons have not changed, there is no reason to change the requirements. If people are confused about the QRCO, TECO and WRCO part of the major, and if people want the smallest General Education program possible, then consider dropping the QRCO, TECO and WRCO.

Directions give a breadth to the program. Reducing the number of Directions that have to be taken would narrow that breadth.

The General Education Taskforce regarded the First Year Experience courses and the Directions courses to be the heart of the program. The Connections are supposed to be studied in connection with a major or minor. We went from a content based program to a skills and processes program. If it is too big, reduce the Connections; do not reduce the basic portion of the program.

When the program was passed, one-third of the current faculty were not here. Concerned about dropping the WRCO. Double counting doesn't make the program smaller.

Look at double counting carefully. Implications? How loosen requirements? We can have a retreat during Winterim—lay out clear objectives and the consequence of double counting, connections and a variety of things.

Wellness Connection (WECO): it was a political move to bring the Health Human Performance Department; now they have willingness to not teach WECO.

Integration Connection (INCO) was added later.

Waivers and double counting: expectations and loopholes; take away from the framework of the program. Reduce the number of Directions but do not have the waiver. The loopholes eat up the program.

Health and Human Performance has a waiver of SIDI, so the students are getting a narrow look at science; it would benefit students to do other science. Six Directions and eliminate the waiver. If eliminate Connections, the notion of diversity and wellness might not be covered. Capstone experiences versus INCO. Maybe integration is already occurring. One would never support getting

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rid of the Global Awareness Connection (GACO) and INCO. One department is going out of their way to include the WAC experience in their upper-level courses. The “Union Leader test.” No waivers but allow double counting. Eight Directions reduced to six with no waivers. There is a Faculty assumption that the program is too big.

What are the problems? Lay it out explicitly. Maybe changing General Education won't solve all the problems. Not enough faculty. Not enough pressure to teach General Education. Low enrolled upper-level courses. There are not enough Directions being offered. So far for Spring 2009, there seems to be enough seats. Last year at this time we ran out of Directions before initial registration was done. Everything happens in the Provost's Office; sensitive to finances. Their strategy is to look at upper-level enrollments. We're lucky about initial registration for spring but we still need to provide for the Spring 2009 admits.

Students in the old General Education program were taking the 1000/2000 level Directions as electives. Those students have now graduated. It may still be the case with students in the new General Education program—they take additional Directions courses as electives because they like them. Seniors may take Directions as electives so there is not enough Directions seats for the first year and sophomore students.

Amazing courses coming out of the new General Education program. Some faculty have not participated in the new General Education program. Have to really solve the problem.

Why was this in the proposal? How was implementation? Can this be flexible? What are the consequences if we change? Can't it be adjusted to fit a need?

How many courses satisfy multiple Connections? Be really careful about that. Does NEASC factor in the waiver? Waivers are only for those programs who cannot meet the 15 credits of free electives. Maybe program is one course too big now that 120 credits is the minimum requirement for graduation. One is not convinced that the program is too big. The only problem is staffing the program.

Students will get exposure to WRCO. So may not need a separate TECO. More technology is being integrated into courses, but not necessarily the role of technology. One math course is not enough. Eliminating the QRCO will not get them to take another. Everyone has need for quantitative literacy.

Do we need WRCO? A Political Science major has taken five PO courses, each course required several papers but only one was WRCO.

Every department should have discovered how important the QRCO, TECO and WRCO are in their major.

The Chair will try to find a common meeting time for a retreat in Winterim. She will write out the concerns, the problems. We will look at the consequences of changes. Don't need schools, when we really need General Education. One of the philosophies of the new program was to make it easier to switch between majors.

The charge from the Faculty meeting: to review the motion and return to the Faculty. Also look at what the Provost said to us. Look at one credit courses. What are the problems we are trying to

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solve? Suggestion: do a survey of the Faculty to see what the problems are; do it online (similar to the survey on advising).

VI. Assessment: Future plans. No time left in today's meeting.

VII. Committee Reports (changes due to new governance structure?). No time left in today's meeting.
a. Curriculum Committee.
b. Steering Committee.

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 **November 24th**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

The deadline for renewal of General Education status for courses with a 5/2009 sunset date is December 8th.

These minutes were approved November 24, 2008.

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Courses that need to be submitted:

AG 2330 Introduction to Graphic Design Software (TECO)
AN 4100 Anthropological and Sociological Theory (WRCO)
AN 4400 Methods of Social Research (WRCO)
BI 4090 Cell Structure and Function (WRCO)
BI 4440 Electron Microscopy Techniques (WRCO)
BI 4760 Animal Behavior (WRCO)
BI 4770 Animal Physiology (WRCO)
BI 4780 Neurobiology (WRCO)
BU 2500 International Management (GACO)
BU 4220 Administrative Policy (INCO)
ENDI 1300 Murder, Mayhem and Madness: Reflections of the Self and Society in Literature (SSDI)
EN 3870 Literature in the Information Age (TECO)
ESDI 2600 Earth Systems Science: Managing the Earth's Resources (SIDI)
GEDI 1200 Environmental Geography (SIDI)
GEDI 1400 Globalization and Diversity (PPDI)
GR 2010 Intermediate German I (GACO)
GR 2020 Intermediate German II (GACO)
HI 3500 Europe in the 20th Century (GACO)
HI 3560 Gilded Ages? The United States: 1876-1929 (DICO)
HI 3820 Topics in History (GACO)
IS 3530 Exploring Contrasts: Classic vs. Romantic (INCO)
IS 4370 Hispanic Culture in the United States (DICO) (INCO)
LA 2030 Intermediate Latin I (GACO)
LA 2040 Intermediate Latin II (GACO)
MA 2140 Elementary Functions (QRCO) (TECO)
MA 2500 Applied Calculus II (QRCO)
MA 3110 Logic, Proofs and Axiomatic Systems (WRCO)
MA 4140 Algebraic Structures (WRCO)
PO 3640 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (WRCO)
PSDI 2190 Quack Remedies, False Prophets and Unwarranted Claims (SIDI)
PS 3200 Psychology of Women (DICO)
PY 1500 Women and Religion (DICO)
SO 4100 Anthropological and Sociological Theory (WRCO)
SO 4400 Methods of Social Research (WRCO)
SP 1100 Continuing Spanish I (DICO) (GACO)
SP 1120 Continuing Spanish II (DICO) (GACO)