

General Education Committee

November 24, 2008 – HUB 123

MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II (2:28 pm), Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Ezra X. Dalton (student, voting), Wilson A. Garcia (2:33 pm), Deborah H. John, Robert S. Miller, Evelyn M. Stiller (Chair), Eun-ho Yeo (new faculty, non-voting), David Zehr [eight voting members]

Absent: D. Benjamin Dearth (student, voting), Daniel P. Moore

Excused: Robert E. Fitzpatrick (sabbatical), John C. Krueckeberg (sabbatical)

Presenters of Proposals: Stephanie J. Halter, Barbara D. Lopez-Mayhew, James C. Whiting

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

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

- a. CJ 4800 Criminal Justice Seminar: proposed as WRCO; *approved 7-0-1-2.*

I. The minutes of the November 10th meeting were *approved as distributed.*

II. Early review proposals for renewals [sunset date becomes 5/2013]:

- a. ARDI 1200 Creativity and the Visual World: renewed as CTDI
- b. PY 3120 History of Philosophy II: Modern: renewed as INCO
- c. PY 3540 Philosophy of Religion: renewed as INCO
- d. AH 3530 Arts of the Far East: renewed as GACO and INCO
- e. AH 3600 Arts of the United States: renewed as DICO

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

Sam Brickley motioned to suspend the retroactivity rule for items (c) and (d); seconded; *approved 8-0-0-2.*

- c. CN 1010 Fundamentals of Chinese I: proposed as GACO; [experimental course so no sunset date]; *approved 8-0-0-2.*
- d. AC 1010 Fundamentals of Arabic I: proposed as GACO; [experimental course so no sunset date]; *approved 8-0-0-2.*
- e. SP 2100 Modern Latin American Literature in Translation: proposed as SSDI; *approved 8-0-0-2.*
- f. LL 2500 The History of the English Language: proposed as PPDI; *approved 8-0-0-2.*
- b. PY 1500 Women and Religion: renewal as DICO; *approved 8-0-0-2.*

IV. Student Concerns. Ezra was pleased to see a proposal coming for a Personal Financial Planning course. He thinks it should be required for all students; we should be teaching this because students need it.

V. David Zehr. The Dean was seeking guidance from the General Education Committee. Two students have changed their major (Biology to Criminal Justice; Music to Childhood Studies); their original major had a waiver of one Direction; they want to have the waiver as they pursue a new major that does not have the waiver. The General Education policy is the waiver is attached to the major, not the student. General Education is a faculty program; the Dean of Undergraduate Studies administers

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policies. These Student Requests are not consistent with the General Education policy. Last month he had asked the Curriculum Committee for clarification on a policy regarding double majors/dual degrees. The Curriculum Committee said a mistake does not set a precedent.

If a student has taken enough courses in that area, we should be friendly. Your position needs discretion to make these types of decisions. Concern: setting a precedent.

What is 'enough'? Can you put a formula on it? The Dean should have discretion.

Proposed guidelines: (a) only if the student does not have room in electives to make it work without going over 120 credits; (b) you know waiver application; if in your judgment the collection of courses would convince the Committee to grant a waiver. If the student took the four courses that the department could have chosen for an application for a waiver.

Student takes a Directions course and then changes their major; the new major wants to count that Directions course as satisfying a requirement for the major. Why is a Directions course so similar to an intro-to-the-major course?

No room left in 120/122 credits – is there discretion in that or is it a hypothetical? Every major should have 15 credits of free electives, which helps students when they change majors. Majors that have so few free electives or the student changes their major late.

- VI. Faculty survey. The previous day the Chair had e-mailed a suggestion to the Committee that they survey the Faculty at the December 3rd Faculty meeting concerning their perspectives on the General Education controversy. The Committee discussed the questions she proposed to use and suggested changes. An accurate list of the requirements and total credits required by General Education should accompany the survey questions.

The survey would help the Committee in their thinking process; it would help get suggestions. Distribute them at the table and collect them after the meeting? E-mail them before the meeting? The Chair could give a brief report at the meeting, telling the Faculty what we are doing, asking them to please respond to the survey.

What is the real minimum number of credits that NEASC requires for general education? Some assume that General Education should be the minimum that NEASC will allow.

- VII. Addressing Gen Ed concerns. Planning a retreat. To be productive, assignments will be given; reports will be given at the retreat. May we have a shared repository for the information we gather? Proposed Retreat: Thursday, **January 22, 2009**, 1-3 pm at Frost Commons.
- VIII. Committee Reports (changes due to new governance structure?). No time left in today's meeting.
- Curriculum Committee.
 - 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 **December 8th**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

Sunset dates that have been extended by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies:

HI 3560 Gilded Ages? The United States: 1876-1929 (DICO)

HI 3500 Europe in the 20th Century (GACO)

HI 3820 Topics in History (GACO)

These courses are taught by John Krueckeberg who is on sabbatical this term.

New sunset date is 5/2010.

Not Seeking Renewal:

LA 2030 Intermediate Latin I

LA 2040 Intermediate Latin II

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

Courses that need to be submitted:

AG 2330 Introduction to Graphic Design Software (TECO)

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)

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)

IS 3530 Exploring Contrasts: Classic vs. Romantic (INCO)

IS 4370 Hispanic Culture in the United States (DICO) (INCO)

PO 3640 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (WRCO)

SO 4400 Methods of Social Research (WRCO)

SP 1100 Continuing Spanish I (DICO) (GACO)

SP 1120 Continuing Spanish II (DICO) (GACO)

These minutes were approved February 9, 2009.