

# General Education Committee

December 8, 2008 – HUB 119

## MINUTES

Present: Samuel D. Brickley II (left 3:41 pm), Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Ezra X. Dalton (student, voting, left 2:50 pm), D. Benjamin Dearth (student, voting), Wilson A. Garcia, Deborah H. John, Robert S. Miller (left 3:45 pm), Evelyn M. Stiller (Chair), Eun-ho Yeo (new faculty, non-voting, left 3:54 pm), David Zehr [eight voting members]

Absent: Daniel P. Moore

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

Presenters of Proposals: Trent E. Boggess, Barbara Boschmans, Thomas R. Boucher, Dana C. Ernst, Barbara D. Lopez-Mayhew, Roxanna Wright

*Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed.* Evelyn Stiller called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

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

- a. PS 3200 Psychology of Women: renewed as DICO
- b. HI 3xxx Islamic Empires: approved as GACO
- c. BUDI 2xxx Personal Financial Planning: approved as SSDI
- d. PSDI 2190 Quack Remedies, False Prophets and Unwarranted Claims: renewed as SIDI
- e. MA 2500 Applied Calculus II: renewed as QRCO

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

- a. BU 4220 Administrative Policy: renewal as INCO; *approved 6-2-0-2.*
- b. MA 2140 Elementary Functions: renewal as QRCO and TECO; *approved 8-0-0-2.*
- c. MA 3110 Logic, Proofs, and Axiomatic Systems: renewal as WRCO; *approved 8-0-0-2.*
- d. MA 4140 Algebraic Structures: renewal as WRCO; sunset date extended to 5/2011 due to the lack of student evaluations.
- e. SP 1110 Continuing Spanish I: renewal as DICO and GACO; *approved 7-0-0-3.*
- f. SP 1120 Continuing Spanish I: renewal as DICO and GACO; *approved 7-0-0-3.*
- g. GR 2010 Intermediate German I: renewal as GACO; *approved 7-0-0-3.*
- h. GR 2020 Intermediate German II: renewal as GACO; *approved 7-0-0-3.*
- i. IS 4370 Hispanic Culture in the United States: renewal as DICO and INCO; *approved 7-0-0-3.*

Mary reported that the following courses with a 5/2009 sunset date had not yet been submitted to the Committee:

AG 2330 Introduction to Graphic Design Software (TECO)

AN/SO 4400 Methods of Social Research (WRCO)

BI 4090 Cell Structure and Function (WRCO)

BI 4440 Electron Microscopy Techniques (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 1400 Globalization and Diversity (PPDI)

IS 3530 Exploring Contrasts: Classic vs. Romantic [extended for one year; new sunset is 5/2010]

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PO 3640 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (WRCO)

The Chair is accepting proposals until December 15<sup>th</sup>, with a decision by the Committee no later than December 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was noted that departments need to know the rules and the rules need to be applied consistently.

- IV. Look at faculty vote. The Chair distributed copies of approximately 50 faculty surveys she had received (paper and e-mail). She is still receiving responses and will forward copies to the Committee.
- V. Addressing Gen Ed concerns. Planning the **January 22<sup>nd</sup> retreat (Lamson Tower room 1-3** (possibly 4). Select an area to evaluate (double counting, reducing directions, reducing connections, accreditation requirements). The Chair stated that the two main questions coming from the faculty were (a) size of the program and (b) double counting. She wants the retreat to focus on these two questions first. Sam volunteered to look at procedural aspects. The Chair did not want to do that at the retreat because it is not part of the faculty's concerns.

Are we in line with accreditation standards? NEASC requires one-third of the degree (40 credits) to be General Education. We need to keep that in mind. David agreed to look at NEASC specific requirements. NEASC required six credits of science at the time the program was designed.

What would it look like? Could look at double counting. What does it mean to evaluate 'double counting'? Staffing issues. Could merge gen ed and majors-only courses. Talk to those who are advocating double counting. Put all possibilities on the table.

What if we allowed one consistent rule for every major to specify one gen ed? Would that be an improvement? What happens when students change their major?

There is a broad based assumption that general education is not working? Some have offered suggestions to fix it

The list of credits required by gen ed is not accurate because of double counting (Connections) and waivers (Directions). One course may satisfy two or three Connections. Look at QRCO, TECO and WRCO. Some people want those to count as general education credits, rather than credits required by the major. How would NEASC view it? They do allow double counting.

We need an evaluation plan that includes procedures, student impact, staffing impact; not just the problem; rather than depending on anecdotal evidence. Create a document to remind the faculty the problems we were trying to solve by creating the current program, why there was to be no double counting, why some requirements are untouchable. One of our primary goals was to make decisions based on long term assessment. We haven't kept reminding faculty about assessment. We look at assessment when course is sunsetting.

Directions address the breadth. NEASC requires breadth.

We should start with the philosophy of the program. The current program is simpler than the old program. Fifty something voted against the proposal and 50 something have answered the survey.

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We need to show we have made a good faith effort, that we looked at everything. People seem happier with the Connections.

No one has graduated with this General Education program. Can't look at graduation delays because no one has graduated yet.

We could use a logic model to lay out an evaluation program. Need to have information from the students who will be graduating this year. We have no student outcomes data.

What are the real reasons why they don't want to adopt this gen ed? Easy to just say 'cut.'

No longer have the Factbook. Can't prove it without data. We have no way to know because there is no Factbook. Some faculty are hired as graduate faculty so the number of faculty may be inflated. Can we get figures on faculty? We assume a large part of Gen Ed is taught by adjuncts.

What about looking at the major? Majors that refuse to address the complexity of the major?

The size of a classroom dictates the cap of the courses to be taught in the room. Department classrooms versus other classrooms.

Ben volunteered to study requiring six versus eight Directions, with two floaters.

David agreed to look at NEASC specific requirements.

Deborah agreed to create an evaluation plan; each question in a category; what data do we need to answer the question.

Evelyn and David will look at staffing.

Robert volunteered to work on the philosophy.

Sam volunteered to look at procedural aspects.

Wilson volunteered to compare the old program and the new program.

- I. Approve minutes from November 24<sup>th</sup>. No time left in today's meeting.
- VI. Committee Reports (changes due to new governance structure?). No time left in today's meeting.
  - a. Curriculum Committee.
  - b. Steering Committee.
- VII. Meetings for next semester: All meetings will be in HUB 123 at 2:30 pm on February 9, 23, March 9, 23, April 13 and 27.

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 **February 9, 2009**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe  
Director of Curriculum Support

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Sunset date that has been extended by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies:

IS 3530 Exploring Contrasts: Classic vs. Romantic; new sunset date is 5/2010

Sunset date that has been extended by the Committee:

MA 4140 Algebraic Structures; new sunset date is 5/2011

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

Courses that need to be submitted:

AG 2330 Introduction to Graphic Design Software (TECO)

AN 4400 Methods of Social Research (WRCO) – *not seeking renewal*

BI 4090 Cell Structure and Function (WRCO) – *not seeking renewal*

BI 4440 Electron Microscopy Techniques (WRCO) – *not seeking renewal*

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)

PO 3640 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (WRCO)

SO 4400 Methods of Social Research (WRCO) - *not seeking renewal*

*These minutes were approved February 9, 2009.*