

General Education Committee

February 9, 2009 – HUB 123

MINUTES

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

Absent: D. Benjamin Dearth (student, voting)

Excused: Deborah H. John

Vacant: Dean of the Academic Experience

Presenters of Proposals: Linda Levy, Patrick May

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. HE 3750 Wellness Skills for Health Professionals: proposed as WRCO; *approved 6-0-0-2.*
- b. GEDI 1400 Globalization and Diversity (PPDI): General Education status had been discontinued January 22nd by the General Education Committee because the course had not been submitted for Renewal. Sam moved to suspend the rule for this course; there was no second. Discussion ensued. The Committee voted 6-0-0-2 to renew the PPDI status for GEDI 1400.

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

- a. BI 4760 Animal Behavior: renewed as WRCO
- b. BI 4770 Animal Physiology: renewed as WRCO
- c. BI 4760 Neurobiology: renewed as WRCO
- d. PH 2010 Physical Science for Non-Scientists and PH 2020 Physical Science for Non-Scientists Laboratory: proposed as SIDI
- e. GEDI 1200 Environmental Geography: renewed as SIDI
- f. MUDI 1000 Jazz Styles: Past and Present: proposed as PPDI
- g. ENDI 1300 Murder, Mayhem, and Madness: Reflections of the Self and Society in Literature: renewed as SSDI
- h. AG 2330 An Introduction to Graphic Design Software: renewed as TECO
- i. ESDI 2600 Earth Systems Science: Managing the Earth's Resources: General Education status discontinued January 22nd; renewed as SIDI
- j. LL 1010 Special Topic: Fundamentals of Language and Cultural Studies I: proposed as GACO
- k. BS Environmental Science and Policy (both options): approved SIDI waiver

I. Approve minutes from November 24, 2008. *Approved 6-0-0-2.*

Approve minutes from December 8, 2008. *Approved 6-0-0-2.*

Approve minutes from January 22, 2009. No action.

IV. David on CLA results. There are no results yet. David sought the Committee's input on a proposal to preschedule new students into all courses, including Directions, except IS 1111 The First Year Seminar, for New Student Orientation. Doing so would remove the schedule planning session at Orientation and replace that time with another academic experience. The Chair did not allow discussion at this time and agreed to put the topic on the February 23rd agenda. Discussion is needed

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then because this proposal needs action by the Orientation Steering Committee in March in order to change the schedule.

- V. Report to faculty responding to Social Science motion. Earlier in the day Lourdes had distributed via e-mail her follow-up document and draft proposal, "Examining the Issue of 'Double-Counting' – Part II." Discussion:

List of required courses in major could not include more than two Direction (DI) courses? Just two count. Can have more than two specified if they are not the same Direction. Departments have to make whatever changes, e.g., submit courses to become DI, submit Curriculum Change Proposals to change requirements of the major.

Waiver goes away. Will the section in the General Education Handbook about waivers be deleted? Will the section about "no double counting" be deleted or rewritten? Add to the Handbook the rules from the proposal.

Courses would have to meet the criteria of a Direction (DI). Is there a different standard for a waiver versus for creating a DI? Intro-to-the-major courses have to meet the standards of a Direction, e.g., relevance to a student's life.

Major GPA.

A student's major grade point average will be based on all specific courses listed as required (except EN 1200), any other courses elected beyond the required minimum number from an identified group, plus any others in the central discipline which are elected. (pp. 51-52 of 2008-2009 Academic Catalog)

Need to clarify "central discipline." Definition would need to have clarification. We should go to the Academic Affairs Committee regarding the major GPA and how this proposal would affect the major GPA. David agreed to take these questions to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Replace HIDI with PPDI to denote the course is a Past and Present Direction. The Implementation Team rejected that idea because departments would not take ownership of the course.

Double counting proposal: can those be courses outside of the major discipline? If Psychology changed PS 2010 to PSDI 2010, it will be a Directions for all programs that require PS 2010, e.g., BS Management (both options), BS Social Work (all options).

Minors already allow Directions courses.

John agreed to take a sounding from the Social Science Department on this proposal of double counting.

Evelyn had distributed via e-mail her document, "General Education Report to Faculty." Reasons for why we do not support the Social Science Department proposal. We might endanger our NEASC accreditation if we cut Directions.

Class caps. Many into-to-the-major courses in Business are capped at 40. General Education courses cannot exceed 40. What happens to the cap if an intro-to-the-major course will double count as a Directions?

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Robert agreed to merge Evelyn's report, Lourdes' report, and his report on the History and Philosophy of Current General Education Program (presented for the January 22nd retreat) into one document. He will also include responses to the Provost's October 22nd memo regarding "the important task of reviewing our general education program" (see October 27, 2008 General Education minutes).

Divorcing the QRCO, TECO and WRCO from the department is a different issue. Evelyn proposes that they do not have to be submitted to the General Education Committee.

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

VII. Next meeting February 23.

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 23rd**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

Courses that failed to submit renewal applications and have therefore lost their General Education status:

BU 2500 International Management (GACO): new course number is BU 2510

PO 3640 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (WRCO): new course number is PO 3630

These minutes were approved March 9, 2009.

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