

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

October 22, 2007 – HUB room 123

MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II, Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Robert E. Fitzpatrick (left 3:28 pm), Joel D. Funk, John C. Krueckeberg, Robert S. Miller, Samuel T. Miller (new faculty observer, non-voting), Evelyn M. Stiller (Chair), David Zehr [eight voting members]

Presenter of Proposals: Ray Perkins

Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed.

Evelyn Stiller called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

II. Designate minute taker. Evelyn announced that Mary had volunteered to scribe the General Education Committee meetings.

III. New Business

- b. PY 1010 Ultimate Questions (GACO): renewal of Global Awareness Connection; approved 4-3-1-0. New sunset date is 5/2012.
- c. PY 2310 Elements of Logic (QRCO): renewal of Quantitative Reasoning in the Disciplines Connection; approved 8-0-0-0. New sunset date is 5/2012.
- d. PYDI 1050 Building a Civil Society (SSDI): renewal of Self and Society Direction; approved 8-0-0-0. New sunset date is 5/2012.
- a. IS 3440 God, the Devil and Moral Choice in Film: requesting Integrative Component status (pre-2005 General Education program); approved 8-0-0-0. [The course was offered experimentally twice as INTG. It was approved March 16, 2007 by the Curriculum Committee as a permanent offering.]
- e. ER 3300 Cultural Responsive Early Care and Education (DICO): preapproved as Writing in the Discipline Connection. Sunset date is 5/2012. [This course is due for renewal as a Diversity Connection.]

IV. General Education Surveys. David distributed the Spring 2007 GenEd Evaluation Survey Results Overview. The paper surveys have a higher response rate than the online surveys. All courses due for renewal are evaluated with the paper survey. The process is very time consuming and labor intensive for the Undergraduate Studies Office. The online surveys are less work than the paper surveys but they still take time. What might faculty do to enhance the online response rate? Faculty need to take evaluation seriously. Suggestion: continue to use paper surveys for the courses due for renewal. Encourage departments to add the questions used on the Gen Ed survey to their departmental course evaluation forms (or add similar questions); then it would be up to the departments to provide the data. We could add evaluating their General Education courses to the department's program review. The faculty voted to do so for the 1986-2005 General Education program but no one did it; no one implemented it or a mechanism to remind the departments to do it.

V. Assessment. Discuss our feasibility study. Collaborating with other stakeholders. How to proceed to create an assessment plan by December 2007. David had e-mailed the Committee on September 24th the links for the three assessment instruments discussed at the meeting that day. Members were asked to review them and to provide feedback. The CLA instrument was the consensus of the Committee. David reported that Wendy Palmquist, Coordinator of the First Year Seminar, supports CLA for the critical thinking component. If everyone agrees, David will contact the company. We should ask the

Mathematics Department to review it. It costs \$6500 for a cross sectional administration (sample of 100 first year and 100 senior students). Perhaps we could do a pilot in the spring. Plan: pilot the CLA instrument; discuss the results; decide what we are going to do.

For sunset courses, the Undergraduate Studies Office will send paper surveys. The departments will be expected to address in their Program Review how they contribute to General Education. This will only work if the administration buys in to it.

I. The minutes of the September 24, 2007 meeting were approved as presented; 7-0-0-1.

Mary noted that currently 63 Connections and 13 Directions (not including the actions taken today) have a sunset date of 5/2008 and need to be renewed by December 10, 2007.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm. Agenda items not discussed due to the length of the meeting were:

- VI. How to generate excitement about teaching General Education courses again.
- VII. Committee Reports (changes due to new governance structure?)
 - a. Curriculum Committee (who report?)
 - b. Steering Committee?
- VIII. Other issues (please let me know)

The General Education Committee meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in HUB 123. Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the next meeting of the Committee will be **November 26th**.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe
Director of Curriculum Support

These minutes were approved November 26, 2007.