

Gen Ed Committee Meeting Minutes:

November 25, 2013; called to order @ 2:30

Members Present: Patricia Cantor, Alex Herbst, Jason Cordeira, Jason Swift (left @ 4:10), Jeremiah Duncan, Kristine Levan, Mary Campbell, David Zehr, Sandra Gamble.

Members Absent: Jirasak Theplama, James Stiles

Approval of Minutes: October 28, 2013 - *deferred to next meeting*

Old Business:

A. Updates from Curriculum Committee:

- ENDI 2000: *moved to 12/9/13 agenda*
- BI 3025: INCO & WECO *approved in Oct*
- ER 4250: *discussion regarding if course description change affects TECO designation and subsequent vote to decide if ER 4250 can keep TECO designation*
Results of vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting
Therefore, ER 4250 remains a TECO Gen Ed course.

B. Discussion Items:

1. MOTION (J. Duncan): To amend Article XI.F.9.a of the Faculty Bylaws to read: Composition: The Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies, two students selected by the Student Senate, the Director of Curriculum Support, and six elected faculty members. All elected faculty members must be from different departments. This deletes "Dean of the Academic Experience" and "none may be a department chair" from the current bylaws.

Faculty By-Laws may be found at

<https://www.plymouth.edu/office/vpaa/files/2013/09/Fac-Bylaws.pdf>, p. 16

Results of vote: 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting
Process includes: Steering Committee approval of change prior to full faculty vote. Following this, this Motion will be sent to the Faculty Speaker for inclusion and vote in full Faculty Meeting.

2. *Discussion of Spring 2013 Gen Ed Proposal to Revise the Requirements for Gen Ed Directions Course and Accompanying Motions (1 through 3), included below:*

"Motion 1: The following changes to the General Education Program is proposed:

1. Programs may apply for any of their 1000 or 2000-level courses (i.e., "Major's courses") to be designated as a Directions course. Such courses may be a part of degree requirements, and they will also be able to count toward the Directions requirements of the General Education Program, with some restrictions as outlined below.

a) In order to obtain and keep their status as a General Education Directions course, these courses would be subject to the same application and review process as all other Directions courses.

b) Programs may begin applying for their Major's courses to be considered for status as a

Directions course in the Fall 2014 semester. Such courses may be offered no earlier than Fall 2015.

2. Programs may specify courses currently designated as Directions courses to count toward degree requirements. This should not be construed to mean that Programs can prescribe the Directions courses taken by majors, but rather that Directions courses may be used to meet core learning objective/requirements for the major. Such changes will need to be approved by the Curriculum Committee through the normal curriculum change process. In addition, the General Education Committee will need to be notified of the new status and requirements after approval by the Curriculum Committee.

3. Changes to course designations, degree requirements, and General Education requirements will be effective in the 2015-2016 Academic Catalog.

Motion 2: The following changes to the General Education Program is proposed:

1. All students are required to take at least five (5) Directions courses that are not part of their degree requirements and that are outside of their major field of study.

2. This changes to the General Education requirements will be effective in the 2015-2016 Academic Catalog.

Motion 3: The following changes to the General Education Program is proposed:

1. Programs may no longer apply for Waivers of Directions courses.

2. This change to the General Education requirements will be effective in the Fall 2014 semester.”

Summary of discussions & rationale for motion:

- *Per survey to faculty Sp 2012: comments about Directions courses double-counting in the Major (i.e. counting as a Gen Ed DI course + a major requirement); faculty agreed with goals except this one survey question. Explored ways to “soften the line” between DI courses w/in major for courses to meet DI requirements (i.e. DI course w/in major counting towards major); Gen Ed disagreed with this overall (i.e. wanted DI requirements fulfilled in other majors; wanted to allow for **3 DI course w/in major**.*
- *Problems/questions identified are:*
 - *Will students taking DI courses not in their major be compromised if they switch majors?*
 - *With small majors, they may struggle with finding/filling the DI courses.*
 - *Inclusion of “lower level” courses as DI courses, some concerns r/t having non-majors fill these lower level courses*
 - *Degree works system and overall-advising system might be further complicated?*
- *Benefits are:*
 - *Students need to go outside of their major to get Gen Ed requirements, which is in keeping with overall Gen Ed philosophy*
 - *Going outside major increases student interest due to the courses being interesting & relevant to the students’ lives & providing education & skills related to the professional workplace*

*Resolution: All members do not currently endorse the 3 Gen Ed Motions as they were passed last spring. So, new **MOTION (per J. Duncan; 2nd by J. Swift):***

- *strike part C from Motion #1*
 - *Motion #2 remains as stated*
 - ***Change implementation dates for all 3 Motions forward 1 year***
- Results of vote: 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting.
Therefore, this Motion to move this forward to the full Faculty Meeting passed.*

3. Waiver process update discussion (P. Cantor) *not discussed*
4. NEASC site visit update (D. Zehr) *not discussed*

New Business: Sunset Renewal Proposals Review, Discussion & Vote

- AP 3320/21 Adventure Education Philosophy and Theory (WRCO): C. Bisson attending
 - *7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting*
 - *APPROVED*
- MT 2800 Climatology (GACO): L. Aviles Bramer attending
 - *4 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstaining, 3 absent/not voting*
 - *APPROVED*
- ME 3500 Technology for Music Education (TECO): R. Pfenninger attending
 - *7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting*
 - *APPROVED*
- PS 3190 Development and Understanding (WECO): P. Fedorchak, W. Palmquist, D. Fife attending
 - *1 in favor, 6 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting*
 - *NOT APPROVED*
- PS 3150 Research Methods in Psychology (WRCO): P. Fedorchak, W. Palmquist, D. Fife attending
 - *7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 2 absent/not voting*
 - *APPROVED*
- BUDI 2650 Career Exploration (SSDI): D. Burnell & V. Lelas attending
 - *2 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstaining, 3 absent/not voting*
 - *NOT APPROVED*
- EN 3295 Postcolonial Literature (GACO): A. McClellan & N. Hamilton attending
 - *6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 3 absent/not voting*
 - *APPROVED*

Next meeting: December 9, 2013@ 2:30

Members agreed to review all Sunset Renewal Proposals for Dec. 9, 2013 meeting posted to Moodle by 12/02/13

Additional proposals to be included in next meeting, deferred from today

- TH 2230 American Musical Theatre (DICO, WRCO)
- TH 3930 American Drama (DICO, WRCO)
- DN 3050 World Dance (GAC)

Meeting adjourned @ 4:40

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra R. Gamble, RN, MSN