

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
February 21, 2007

The General Education Committee met on Wednesday, January February 21, 2007, from Noon to 1 p.m. in the Provost's Conference Room.

Members Present: Jim Brink (Provost's Office, ex-officio), Ray Desrosiers (Engineering), Ernest Fish (Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources), Tom Kimball (Human Sciences), Linda Krefting (Business Administration), Mellinee Lesley (Education), Charles Myles (Faculty Senate), Roger Saathoff (Mass Communications), Ben Shacklette (Architecture), David Roach (Arts & Sciences, presiding).

Members Absent: Dorothy Chansky (Visual and Performing Arts – on leave), Frank Durso (Arts & Sciences), Gary Elbow (Honors), David Lamp (Arts & Sciences)

I. Review of minutes from the January 2007 meeting. Minutes were approved.

II. Announcements.

- * Meetings Spring 2007 semester – Back to Normal Schedule: 3rd Wednesday of month.
 - March 21
 - April 18
 - May – only if emergency

III. New Business

- Proposal from VPA School of Music to remove the following courses from the GEC inventory:
 - MUAP 2133 and MUAP 2134 (to also be deleted from the SOM inventory)
 - MUTH 1301 (also deleted from SOM inventory) and MUTH 1101 (leveling for music majors).
 - MUCP 1201 and 1202 (now music major only courses).
 - MUAP 3001, 3002, 4001, 4002 (remove because these course have lower level prerequisites on the GEC list).
 - * **The GEC committee recommends deletion of these courses from the GEC inventory.**
 - * **Subsequent to the meeting, the Provost approved this recommendation.**
- Previous: Biology proposal to remove ZOOL 2403 Human Anatomy from GEC list. Approved. Problems. Current– original proposal to be withdrawn. Biology requests that ZOOL 2403 not be removed from GEC list.
 - * **The GEC committee recommends that ZOOL 2403 not be removed from the GEC list.**
 - * **Subsequent to the meeting, the Provost approved this recommendation.**

IV. Continuing Business

A. December Meeting Issue: A motion was made and seconded that statements in the core that give collections of courses automatic inclusion in the core should be removed. The rationale for the motion is that in view of increased accountability and SACS requirements, the committee is charged even more to review individual courses, not categories of courses. Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes and Assessment data has to be monitored and gathered on individual courses. With the new 5 year review cycle for all General Education courses, all departments will have to send in Learning Outcomes and Assessment data for each individual course. The motion was tabled to allow time for university departments to share input on this motion if they so desire. Roach sent an email to Deans with news of this pending motion, so that they could get responses from departments before a decision was made. In January 2007 meeting, committee considers responses, discusses, and votes to recommend to Provost that current catalog statements in the core that give collections of courses automatic inclusion in the core should be removed from the catalog. The Provost approves this recommendation.

- VPA College Response:

1) School of Art provides specific list of Art courses to fulfill GEC requirements:

Art 1302 Design Introduction,
Art 1303 Drawing Introduction,
Art 1309 Art Appreciation,
Art 1310 Art History Survey I,
Art 2311 Art History Survey II.

2) School of Music provides specific list of Music courses to fulfill GEC requirements:

MUEN 2100 New Music Ensemble
MUEN 3101 Choir

MUEN 3102 Music Theatre
MUEN 3103 Band
MUEN 3104 Orchestra
MUEN 3105 Jazz Ensemble
MUEN 3106 Small Ensemble
MUEN 3110 Medium Ensemble
MUEN 3201 University Choir
MUEN 3202 Music Theatre
MUEN 3203 Band
MUEN 3204 Orchestra

- Sue Jones Questions:

- 1) According to this GEC decision, are all courses currently under such blanket statements (e.g., CMLL, History, etc.) now deleted until these departments and the GEC reinstate specific courses?
- 2) Does this decision affect: MATH (p. 41), ARCH (p. 42), ENGL (p. 43), MUEN (p. 43) and SOC (p. 44)? Sue expresses need to work fast to get the CORE in shape before the catalog goes to print. Deadline will be after March GEC meeting.

*** GEC response: Given the lateness of the year and the closeness of the deadline for the new catalog, current catalog statements in the core that give collections of courses automatic inclusion in the core will be left operational for the 07-08 catalog. Removal of these statements will take effect in the 08-09 catalog. In preparation for removal of these blanket statements, all departments with courses affected by this change need to submit proposals that these specific courses be included in the core. Proposals need to go through the normal proposal process (see proposal instructions attached to minutes). All proposals must include syllabi. Syllabi must have learning outcomes and assessments that are clearly and specifically tied to the description for the relevant core category (as listed in the catalog). The GEC encourages all departments affected by this to submit proposals on or before August 31, 2007 for these courses.**

*** Subsequent to the meeting, the Provost approved the recommendation for implementation of this change in catalog wording.**

The GEC applauds VPA for taking such a quick and proactive response to the decision remove blanket inclusion statements from Core categories. The specific listing of courses is good. These courses will need to go through the normal proposal process. VPA departments are encouraged to submit proposals and syllabi for these courses to the GEC on or before August 31, 2007.

B. December Meeting Issue: dropping 3000 and 4000 courses that have prerequisites that fulfill general education requirements off of the core list. A motion was made and seconded that all 3000 and 4000 level courses in the core that have prerequisites that fulfill general education requirements be removed from the core list. The motion was tabled to allow time for university departments to share input and responses to this motion. Roach sent an email to Deans with news of this pending motion, so that they can get responses from departments. Previous feedback from History and English. Received feedback from Literature Division of English, Ag. & Applied Economics, CMLL, and Philosophy. Committee discusses feedback. Some confusion about proposal evident in responses. Committee decides to send out another message, explaining the proposal more clearly and inviting feedback before the next meeting. Roach sends this to Deans and Associate Deans to be distributed to departments. Original proposal tabled until Feb meeting.

No additional feedback received from this second call. The GEC deliberated and voted to recommend that all 3000 and 4000 level courses with prerequisites that already fulfill general education requirements be deleted from the core.

*** Subsequent to the meeting, the Provost approved this recommendation.**

NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR PROPOSALS
TO THE GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- Proposals for changes in the Core Curriculum must come to the General Education Committee (GEC) from the office of the dean of the originating college and with an indication of the dean's approval. Proposals not bearing the approval of the dean's office will be returned to the college without action.
- *Proposals to add or delete a course from the Core must be accompanied by a current syllabus and supporting materials. Proposals must clearly demonstrate how the proposed course fits the specific Core Curriculum category description. The course syllabus must include:*
 - 1) *a course description.*
 - 2) *course objectives.*
 - 3) *learning outcomes and assessments that are clearly tied to the specific Core Curriculum category.*
 - 4) *a schedule of class meetings and topics to be covered.*

Proposals not accompanied by a syllabus will be returned to the college without action. Supporting materials need to include assessment data and information on how this assessment data is being used to inform how the class is being taught.
- To ensure that proposals are considered at a meeting of the GEC, they should arrive in the Provost's office (attention: Brink) no later than the beginning of the month during which they will come before the GEC. Proposals that do not arrive by this deadline may be considered, depending on the number of items on the agenda for the meeting. If late proposals cannot be included on the agenda for the meeting, they will be considered at the next meeting.
- Sponsorship of proposals is done by the GEC representative of the originating college. The presence of additional sponsors is neither necessary nor desirable unless specifically invited by the committee. GEC recommends that proposers consult with their college's representative on the GEC.