

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes – April 19, 2006

The General Education Committee met on Wednesday, April 19, 2006, from Noon to 1 p.m. in the Provost's Conference Room.

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

Members Absent: Frank Durso (Arts & Sciences), Mellinee Lesley (Education)

1. Review of minutes from the last meeting approved with minor correction.

2. Announcements.

- * Congratulations to: Roger Saathoff, Ben Shacklette, Dorothy Chansky for awards!
- * Gary Elbow report from meeting with First-Year Writing Program External Reviewers in English Department
- * May meeting? - No

3. Old Business

- ASL 3312 Deaf Culture proposed as a course to satisfy the multicultural requirement (submitted but not reviewed last month) - **The committee observed that the syllabus lacks an outline of course content coverage and the schedule of when this is covered in the semester. Also, the syllabus needs to show how this course ties in specifically to the multicultural requirement (it could be taught in a way that does not emphasize multicultural issues). Roach will convey this to the college and to those making this proposal. Committee deliberation on this proposal will be suspended until further information is received.**
- Issue from Sue Jones: She checked every course on the multicultural list to make sure it is really a course. ART 3318 changed to ART 4318 last December. According to the course description, the content stayed the same. The justification says: "Students, including majors in Art History, need the challenge of a senior-level course. The emphasis on critical reading, research methods, and theoretical positions will help Art History majors with their senior thesis." Does this course stay on the multicultural list and just get a number change?
Committee response: the ART department needs to provide communication with the committee regarding its intentions and rationale behind this change. A defense is needed for this course to remain on the list. The committee also has concerns that ART 1310 and ART 2311 are prerequisites for this course and both of these are already on the Multicultural list. By the time a student would take 3318 or 4318, the prerequisites would have already fulfilled the requirement. Roach will share this with the ART department and request a response for the committee.
- Review of Gil Reeve's charge to the committee regarding SACS and Learning Outcomes Assessment for General Education courses.
 - Summary statement of all General Education Committee recommendations to be provided to Provost every May. The chair of the committee will compile and submit this report.
 - Need for General Committee to document their review process. Review Process Statement Draft document discussed.
- Specific Items that Gil Reeve needs from the GEC by August 1, 2006
 - a) Evidence of the inclusion of the core competencies in the course syllabi.
 - b) Copies of the instruments that are used to assess students' learning (relative to the competencies)
 - c) Evidence of the use of the results of the assessments to enhance students' attainment of those competencies
- Significant discussion of these issues. The committee will take action to make sure appropriate data is on hand and to Gil by August 1.

Meeting adjourned at this point. Items below in the continuing review of the IGB category will be taken up at the next meeting.

4. Ongoing Business – Individual and Group Behavior Category review.

- * Current Status of Individual and Group Behavior review

*Last meeting, Economics 2301, Economics 2302, Economics 2305 & Geography 3337 syllabi distributed to committee for discussion at this meeting.

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 may have additional supporting materials. Proposals must include a course description, course objectives, learning outcomes/assessments, and must clearly demonstrate how the proposed course fits the Core Curriculum category objectives. Proposals not accompanied by a syllabus will be returned to the college without action.
- 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.