

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes – November 29, 2006

The General Education Committee met on Wednesday, November 29, 2006, from Noon to 1 p.m. in the Provost's Conference Room.

Members Present: Dorothy Chansky (Visual and Performing Arts), Ray Desrosiers (Engineering), Frank Durso (Arts & Sciences), Gary Elbow (Honors), Ernest Fish (Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources), 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: Tom Kimball (Human Sciences), Mellinee Lesley (Education)

1. Review of minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were approved.

2. Announcements.

* In Spring, we will return to our once a month meeting schedule (3rd Wednesday of each month).

3. New Business

- Proposal to delete ZOOL 2403 Human Anatomy from the Natural Laboratory Science list. **The committee voted to recommend approval of this proposal to the Provost.**
- Proposal to add ZOOL 2402 Human Anatomy and Physiology to the Natural Laboratory Science list. **The committee voted to recommend approval of this proposal to the Provost pending a revised syllabus that contains learning outcomes and assessments that are specifically tied to this core curriculum category. Revised syllabus was received and committee votes to recommend approval.**
- Question from Liz Hildebrand: SLAV 2301 was a course that covered multicultural and humanities but when the number was changed to 3301, the course was "left off" of the Humanities list. She wonders if this course can be reinstated in the Humanities list. Issue #1 from Sue Jones: Does the bolded sentence in the Humanities paragraph on page 42 cover the problem with SLAV 3301 or any other foreign language course without having to include the course in the Humanities list?
- **it was noted that SLAV 3301 is a Russian Literature course, not a foreign language course.**
- **the committee is open to considering SLAV 3301 but would need an official proposal in the standard consideration process.**
- Issue #2 from Sue Jones: Does a course automatically stay on the Core or Multicultural list after it gets a change in number, name, hours, or description? **The committee answer to this question is "NO, the course should not automatically stay on the list with these changes. The course would need to be submitted for committee review."**

4. Old Business

- LOs and Assessments for all Gen Ed courses in our summer call. All IOUs and supplementary data due December 2006. Will send in supplemental report to Gil Reeve.
- *Discussion this fall of GEC role in writing intensive courses. Committee to engage in discussion of how to enhance WI requirement on campus. Roach was to make a list of all WI courses on campus for committee review. Snags because current lists in TechSis not accurate and don't match with printed catalog. Update: Gen Ed letter sent to Deans to ask units to update/correct screen 12b WI lists (to match the catalog) by end of November. Mary Elkins will send us an updated 12b list in December so we can start consideration of WI courses in Spring.*
- 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 will send an email to Deans with news of this pending motion, so that they can get responses from departments.**

5. Other

- A motion was made and seconded that current 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 Outcome 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 Outcome 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 will send an email to Deans with news of this pending motion, so that they can get responses from departments before a decision is made. This issue will be revisited in the 1st spring committee meeting, with the goal of making a final decision at that meeting.

*****Subsequent to the meeting, the Provost approved GEC recommendations regarding: ZOOL 2403, ZOOL 2402*****

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.