

General Education Committee

Minutes, March 9th, 2009

2:30-3:30 HUB 123

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Sam Brickley, Ben Dearth, John Krueckeberg, Robert Miller, Evelyn Stiller (Chair), Eun-ho Yeo (new faculty, non-voting), David Zehr

Excused: Mary Campbell (Director of Curriculum Support)

Absent: Deborah John

I. The minutes of the January 22nd retreat, the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved 6-0-0.

II. Committee members had preapproved the following course proposals:

- GE3630, Historical Geology of Europe (GACO and WRCO)
- GE4110, Topics in Regional Geography (GACO and WRCO)
- BIDI####, Solving the Mysteries of Inheritance (SIDI)

III. Committee members approved EDDI####, Transformation Through the Arts, for CTDI status, 7-0-0.

IV. Committee members discussed the recent faculty meeting where separate motions to (a) allow limited double counting for Directions courses and (b) cut the number of required Directions courses from eight to four were defeated. The discussion focused on the following points:

- Both votes were strong and significant
- Why double counting was eliminated from the current General Education program
- Ongoing resource issues in staffing Directions courses
- Hard-scheduling students into Directions courses for June orientation
- The Chair asked if the Committee should write a formal response to the Provost regarding resources, but other Committee members felt that no such response was necessary.
- Assessment of the General Education program. The Chair mentioned that Vice Provost Moore will visit the Committee at its next meeting to further discuss assessment issues.

V. Robert Miller made the following motion regarding the Sunset Renewal deadline for fall semester:

- *The deadline for submission of Sunset Renewal Proposals will be the first Monday of December each academic year. When extenuating circumstances prevent a department from meeting this deadline, it may appeal to the*

*Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies for a one year extension of the sunset date.*

Sam Brickley made a friendly amendment to the motion. He suggested adding the following phrase to the end of the final sentence: *provided this appeal is made prior to the deadline.* The amendment was accepted.

Following a vigorous discussion over whether faculty ought to be held accountable for meeting the deadline or not, the motion was approved, 6-1-0. The motion as passed reads:

*The deadline for submission of Sunset Renewal Proposals will be the first Monday of December each academic year. When extenuating circumstances prevent a department from meeting this deadline, it may appeal to the Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies for a one year extension of the sunset date, provided this appeal is made prior to the deadline.*

VI. The Chair asked Committee members to consider what needs for institutional information exist. The Steering Committee is discussing whether requests for institutional information are being addressed effectively by the office of Institutional Research. Committee members expressed frustration with the out of date FactBook and suggested that knowing when students take the different components of the General Education program would be helpful for planning.

VII. Committee members briefly discussed the process by which the next Chair will be elected.

The next meeting is March 23rd.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Submitted by David Zehr

*These minutes were approved March 23, 2009.*