

# General Education Committee

October 26, 2009 – HUB 123

## MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II (Chair), Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Christopher C. Chabot, Wilson A. Garcia, Elliott G. Gruner, Jong-Yoon Kim, David Zehr [seven voting members]

Absent: Corey J. DeGroot (student, voting), Annie Gagne (student, voting)

Vacant: Dean of the Academic Experience

Presenter: Michele L. Pruyn

*Recorded in the order in which the agenda item was discussed.* Sam Brickley called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

1. **Approval of September 28<sup>th</sup> minutes.** *Approved by general consent.*

### 2. Course Proposals

a. Early Review (approved); sunset date is 5/2014:

- HE 2900 Disease, Safety and Environment (sunset WECO)
- PE 2850 Wellness Choices for a Healthy, Active Lifestyle (sunset WECO)
- PE 3590 Inclusive Physical Activity (sunset DICO) (sunset WRCO)
- AR 3xxx Letterpress Workshop: The Art of Text (INCO) [pending Curriculum Committee approval as a course]
- CSDI 1400 Computers: Past, Present, and Future (PPDI)

b. Early Review (not approved):

- BIDI 2xxx Plants and Civilization (experimental SSDI). Some members saw more PPDI than SSDI in the proposal. As a result of the discussion at the meeting, Professor Pruyn will resubmit the course November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ESP 3xxx Life in the Universe (experimental INCO). Where is the integration? The Chair had forwarded concerns he had received to Dr. Tomkiewicz. No one was available to attend today's meeting. Hold this for the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

c. Standard Review; sunset date is 5/2014:

(i) BIDI 1xxx The Wonderful Stuff: RNA, DNA and Life (first experimental SIDI). Move to *table* until November 9<sup>th</sup> contingent on receiving a new syllabus. *Approved 7-0-0-2.*

(ii) BIDI 2010 Human Biology I (sunset SIDI) (sunset WECO)  
BIDI 2020 Human Biology II (sunset SIDI) (sunset WECO)

*Approved 6-0-1-2.*

(iii) BI 3240 Conservation (sunset DICO) (sunset GACO) (sunset INCO). How does it meet Diversity in the US? Motion to *table DICO* until November 9<sup>th</sup>. *Approved 6-0-1-2. GACO and INCO approved 6-0-1-2.*

(iv) BI 4050 Ecology (sunset QRCO) (sunset WRCO). *Approved 6-0-1-2.*

### 3. Reports

a. Faculty focus group—update on planning for GACO faculty focus group (Brickley). Sam reported that he has met with Dan Moore about the questions to be used for the Focus Group (short, open-ended). Sam will circulate the questions to the Committee prior to the November 9<sup>th</sup>

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meeting. The Focus Group is tentatively scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>, 9-10 am; location to be determined.

- b. myPlymouth v. Faculty Governance Blog—update (Brickley). Sam expressed to the Steering Committee our concern about multiple locations for information (e.g., minutes, forms, Handbook). The Steering Committee did not want to give just the General Education Committee a special option; they want to address it for all committees. The topic is on the October 28<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee's agenda. Our goal is to have it back in myPlymouth.
4. **Proposal:** "That the Gen Ed Committee evaluate its relationship with the three first-year courses: Comp, FYS, and Math Foundations (e.g., Do we review these courses ever? Should we?)." (Gruner) Are departments responsible for these courses? Do they ever report to this Committee? Should they? Elliot is bringing a new description of EN 1200 Composition to the Curriculum Committee. Should the new description have come to the General Education Committee?

The description of Composition (see page 65 of the current Catalog) is different from that of EN 1200 (see page 214 of the current Catalog). The first description is part of the description of the General Education program that the Faculty approved in 2003 and implemented in 2005. Elliott wants the descriptions to be consistent.

EN 1200, IS 1111 and Math Foundations (any three credit math course at the level of 1500 or higher): As parts of the program they should be assessed. Do the General Education Committee and the department do it? The Math Department assesses math courses for us. We should look at it. The General Education program is meant to be integrative. We need to look at it overall. General Education is a program and we should review the program. Elliot would like to hear occasionally from the First Year Seminar and the Math Department. Create a forum to hear from them. We decided to table assessment until the spring; we will discuss this next semester. We realize there is assessment going on in those courses. Chris moved, Lourdes seconded, to table until next spring.  
*Approved 7-0-0-2.*

5. **Announcements.** Sam has received sunset proposals from the Education Department and for some History courses.

The General Education Committee meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in HUB 123. The next meeting of the Committee will be **November 9th**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe  
Director of Curriculum Support

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Sunset date that has been extended one year by the Associate Vice President for Undergraduates Studies:

CS 1100 Introduction to Computers (TECO)  
CS 1170 Computing Technology in Criminal Justice (TECO)  
CSDI 1300 Digital Media Creation (CTDI)  
CS 2010 Computing Fundamentals (TECO)  
EC 2550 Macroeconomics (GACO)  
ER 3800 Technology and Problem Solving Across the Primary Grade Curriculum (TECO)  
HI 3826 Sex and Empire in Colonial India (GACO) (WRCO) [extended to 5/2012]  
SODI 2200 Exploring Social Life (SSDI)  
SO 2220 Foundations of Sociology (DICO)

Courses with 5/2010 sunset dates that must be submitted **no later than December 7, 2009:**

4 Art Department courses  
3 Atmospheric Science and Chemistry Department courses  
3 Biological Sciences Department courses  
3 Business Department courses  
7 Communication and Media Studies Department courses  
1 Criminal Justice Department course  
4 Education Department courses  
5 English Department courses  
3 Environmental Science and Policy Department courses  
3 Health and Human Performance Department courses  
6 Interdisciplinary Studies courses  
13 Languages and Linguistics Department courses  
5 Mathematics Department courses  
4 Music, Theatre, and Dance Department courses  
7 Philosophy Department courses  
3 Psychology Department courses  
16 Social Science Department courses  
3 Social Work Department courses  
1 Women's Studies course

*These minutes were approved November 9, 2009.*