

## General Education Committee

September 8, 2008 – HUB 123

### MINUTES

Present: Lourdes Aviles, Samuel D. Brickley II, Mary E. Campbell (consultant, non-voting), Wilson A. Garcia (2:40 pm), Robert S. Miller, Evelyn M. Stiller (Chair), Eun-ho Yeo (new faculty, non-voting), David Zehr [five voting members]

Absent: Deborah H. John, Daniel P. Moore

Excused: Robert E. Fitzpatrick (sabbatical), John C. Krueckeberg (sabbatical)

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

- II. Our new members were welcomed. Daniel Moore is substituting for Robert Fitzpatrick, who is on sabbatical. Wilson Garcia is substituting for John Krueckeberg, who is on sabbatical. Eun-ho Yeo has been appointed as new faculty observer. Deborah John was elected to the Committee and Lourdes was reelected to the Committee.
- I. The minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented. The scribe respectfully requested that the Chair resend her April 11<sup>th</sup> e-mail to the Department Chairs about the process for renewing waivers of a Direction. The Chair did so on September 9th.
- III. Proposals preapproved by electronic distribution:
  - a. DN 3050 World Dance as a Global Awareness Connection (GACO); sunset is 5/2013
  - b. BS Athletic Training: Scientific Inquiry Direction waiver renewed  
BS Physical Education (all options): Scientific Inquiry Direction waiver renewed
  - c. BA Music (all options): Creative Thought Direction waiver renewed  
BS Music Education: Creative Thought Direction waiver renewed  
BA Theatre Arts (all options): Creative Thought Direction waiver renewed
  - d. LL 3300 Foundations of Multilingual Multicultural Studies as a Diversity Connection (DICO); sunset is 5/2013

IV. No new proposals

V. CLA/assessment

1. Plans for this year; mechanisms in place. David reported that several sessions will begin September 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a delay in sending the letter to students because of problems from USNH about the incentives (we can't pay them \$10). Other incentives are priority registration, bookstore coupon, Sodexo coffee coupon. On September 8<sup>th</sup> a letter was sent to 100 students. David has written to the First Year Seminar faculty to encourage doing it. The goal is to have 100 students take it. We have a backup list of another 100 students.

David e-mailed faculty this summer to be proctors for the CLA. He has only five at this time. CLA requested that the proctors go through their computer training. Please send your name to David if you want to proctor. Plans are for 20 students per session, which will occur between September 20<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have until October 20<sup>th</sup> to get all the information to CLA.

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David will ask when the results will be submitted to us. CLA tests critical thinking and is administered on computer (we will be using a computer cluster in the Library).

2. Discussion/concerns. Evelyn will be meeting with the President, as part of the Steering Committee. The Committee's concerns? Please e-mail them to Evelyn. The meeting will be in October. Concern: insufficient offerings of General Education courses. Concern: departments don't seem to have bought into the program; they don't see themselves as being responsible for General Education; departments don't want to take ownership of it. Concern: remind that the faculty owns the program. Concern: allocation of faculty resources. David reported that parents at New Student Orientation were very enthusiastic about our General Education program (they see the presentation David makes to the students about General Education). The parents see the value of these courses.

There is a Faculty Forum on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 4-5 pm, HUB MPR; topic is General Education program. Should I go; is it a conflict of interest for me to go as a General Education Committee member? What is it about? Who asked for it? The Social Science Department; they do not like the program, e.g., no double counting.

There is a mandate from the Provost for curriculum reform. Don't confuse that with General Education.

3. Where to go next with assessment? CLA is one assessment tool; it assesses critical thinking. Elliot Gruner is doing a separate assessment on writing. Evelyn met with Julie to get direction about assessment; got nothing. There are eight skills—critical thinking; reading; quantitative reasoning; writing; speaking and listening; conducting research; working with information technology; collaborating with others. We could assess the other six skills, one skill at a time. If Directions courses are really covering what they are suppose to cover, the current evaluation instrument is adequate.

Focus groups. Every semester we could pick a Direction or a Connection. The primary advantage is public relations. Might be more informative. For example, those teaching Self and Society Directions (SSDI) could be invited to come to talk about their experience. Business and Biology are participating in course redesign, delivering course content differently. Business will be doing a pilot next semester with two sections of accounting and two regular sessions. Issues to be addressed: log jam courses; large enrollments; not total consistency in a core course. The ultimate goal is to improve student learning.

Need to discuss: large sections of General Education courses. No course is suppose to be bigger than 40. Procedural matter. Now ignoring? Governance issues. The President and the Provost have the right to overrule; if they deem it is an emergency, they can raise the cap. Curriculum reform? Large enrollments? The purpose of the rule (cap of 40) was to promote active learning. Originally the proposal was 20 for The First Year Seminar and 20-30 for Directions and Connections. The previous Provost did not agree and set the enrollments at 20-25 for IS 1111 and 25-30 for Directions and Connections.

Pick an aspect of General Education? One Direction or Connection per semester would get us started. Pick a day, get some refreshments, ask some questions and talk; invite fall and spring instructors; do it at the end of Winterim. Start with Creative Thought Direction (CTDI). We still

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worry if we will have enough. Invite all the faculty to attend. What incentives are there for faculty to teach General Education? Perhaps this could be co-sponsored or hosted by the Frost Faculty Center for Learning and Teaching Excellence.

### VI. Committee Reports

1. Curriculum Committee. Not requested.
2. Steering Committee. Not given.

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 **September 22nd**.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Campbell, Scribe  
Director of Curriculum Support

### Pending proposals:

BFA (all options) - renewal to waive CTDI  
BS Art Education – renewal to waive CTDI  
ARDI 2310 Table Manners: Handmade for the Table – second experimental offering; request CTDI  
HIDI 1205 Early American Encounters – request renewal as PPDI  
HI 3140 Antebellum America, 1815-1860 – request renewal as DICO and INCO  
HI 3150 American Civil War and Reconstruction – request renewal as WRCO  
HI 3330 New Hampshire and New England Historical Sites  
HI 3350 American Women’s History – request renewal as DICO  
HI 3730 Modern History of East Asia – request renewal as GACO

### **The deadline for all waivers of a Direction is October 6<sup>th</sup>.**

BA Biology – SIDI  
BS Biology – SIDI  
BS Biology/Biological Science Education – SIDI  
BS Biotechnology – SIDI  
BS Environmental Biology – SIDI  
BS Chemistry (all options) – SIDI  
BS Meteorology – SIDI  
BS Physical Science Education – SIDI  
BS Computer Science – SIDI  
BS Health Education (all options) – SIDI  
BS Social Work (all options) – SSDI

**The deadline for renewal of General Education status for courses with a 5/2009 sunset date is December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

*These minutes were approved September 22, 2008.*

*General Education Committee September 8, 2008 minutes*