Gen Ed Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: February 24, 2014 2:30-4:00 PM

Members Present: Pat Cantor, Mary Campbell, Ryanne Carmichael, David Zehr, Jason Swift, Jeremiah Duncan, Jason Cordeira, James Stiles

Members Absent: Jurasak Themplala, Heather Janssen, Kristine Levan

Approval of Minutes:

12/9 Minutes approved with minor corrections to be made by Mary.
2/10 Minutes approved with minor changes.

• Results of vote (6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, 3 absent)

Key points from visit with M. Turski:

• Main reasons for course:
  o Planetary science is being dropped due to staff and scheduling issues
  o Resource management course being moved into core curriculum, thus no longer Gen Ed.
• 60% of class redesigned
• Standards on media literacy emphasized, noting weakness in math skills of students.
• Can be taught by any faculty member in department
• Labs use PBL model. Students assigned to group and given real-world project to analyze, build causal chains. Students see no easy, single answer.
• KWL strategy and other hands-on approaches used.

Discussion of Curriculum Committee Actions of February 21:

• NR 4050 (INCO) – change course title and description
• PE 4805 (WRCO) – change prerequisite
• AC 1010 and 020 (GACO) – change course description
• CN 1010 (GACO) – change course description
• FR 1010 and 1020 (DICO) (GACO) – change course description
• GR 1010 and 1020 (GACO) – change course description
• SP 1010 and 1020 (DICO) (GACO) – change course description
• SP 1110 (DICO) (GACO) – change course description
• CH 2335 (QRCO) – add prerequisite/corequisite

No concerns were noted for above.
Proposed revisions to Gen Ed Handbook Appendix E, Process for Approving or Renewing General Education status for a course. (Jason)

- Document is in process of being edited.
- Do we want upload fields in Moodle? Suggested this would help monitor due dates.
- Discussion of Gen Ed Proposal form – needs some updating with regard to appendix. Form can also reflect basic Directions elements.
- Need for appeals process to be added. What is timeline?
- Challenge of colleagues following simple directions for submissions. Need to monitor/review regardless of how submitted. Can there be some form of accountability given bylaws/policies? Clearer instructions and use of faculty members’ resources to problem solve.
- Some confusion over single form for initial and sunset. Go back to separate forms for each? Appeals form could be separate form as well.
- Given different structures at PSU, perhaps note Department Chair or designee (ie: CoBA Dean).
- Committee expressed support for direct submission to Moodle rather than by e-mail to Gen Ed Chair.
- Tech alternatives to Assignment function on Moodle discussed.
- Need to investigate Moodle Options further. Volunteer needed. Justin should be invited to attend to show/share options for committee.
- E-signature piece needs clarification
- Appeals form feedback needed
- Process page, plus form needs to be put on website.
- Timeline for submission: 2 weeks before meeting. Initial submissions should plan on attending meeting to discuss course.

Discussion: “What to Include on a Gen Ed Syllabus” Document (Jim and David)

- Paragraph statement on Gen Ed should be included
- Standard statement about Gen Ed for the course. Statement would be standard across all Directions/Connections courses.
- Benefits of key skills to employers noted as potential
- Reflective component seen as important. Possibility of two-part description:
  - General Description cut and pasted from Handbook
  - Reflection on how course meets Gen Ed meets and assesses goals
- Several different examples needed to clarify.

Assessment of General Education

- Learning outcomes for Scientific Inquiry Directions courses discussed. Three general categories emerged.
  - Methodology
  - Data -- interpretation
  - Relevancy, real-world problem solving.
- All to write 2 objectives for each of the 3 remaining Directions for next time.

Agenda for next meeting: Monday, March 10, 2:30-4:00
- Review Objectives posted to Moodle.
- One new initial course proposal anticipated.

Remaining Meetings:

Monday, March 10
Monday, March 24
Monday, April 14
Monday, April 28
Monday, May 12