

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Monday, February 27, 2017

2:30-4:00, HUB 109

Approved Minutes

Present: Wendy Palmquist, Joey Rhino, Holly Oliver, Mary Campbell, Sandra Van Gundy, Michelle Fistek

Absent: Gail Mears, Mike Davidson, Annemarie Conlon,, Corey Yelle, Clarissa Uttley

- Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2016 meeting (there was no Feb. 13 meeting) (*available on Moodle*)
- Updates on Curriculum Committee actions affecting Gen Ed (*available on Moodle*); Gen Ed status for all is continued as reported

2:45 Sunset Renewal and New Course Proposals:

- MUDI 2270 *Sound Design for Multimedia* (CTDI) was approved (6 yes-0 no-0 abstention); **TABLED BY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE 2/17/17**
- CH 3020 *Biochemistry I*; INCO was approved (5-0-1); new number is CH 3035. This also applies to BI 3020 *Biochemistry I*.
- CH 3450 *Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics & Kinetics* (WRCO) was approved (6-0-0); new number is CH 3410
- *There is an explanation for EN requests at the end of these minutes***
 - EN 3420 *Rethinking Medieval & Renaissance Literature* (INCO) was approved (6-0-0)
 - EN 2440 *Rethinking Early American Literature* (DICO, TECO) was approved (6-0-0)
 - EN 2460 *Rethinking Modern American Literature* (DICO) was approved (5-0-0)
 - EN 2490 *Rethinking Modern British Literature, 1660-1958* (TECO) was approved (6-0-0)
 - EN 4150 *Digitalit: Storytelling in the Digital Age* (TECO) was approved (6-0-0); new number is EN 4155
 - EN 3510 *Currents in Global Literature* (GACO) was approved (6-0-0); new number is EN 3515
 - EN 4025 *Mysticism & Contemplation*; changing to 4 credit but retaining Gen Ed status; (INCO, WECO) was approved (5-0-1); new number is EN 4040
 - EN 1600 *Studies in English* (WRCO) (QRCO) was approved (5-0-1); formerly EN 2500 (WRCO)
- DNDI 2100 *Empowering Youth Through Movement* (CTDI) was approved (6-0-0); offered experimentally twice as DNDI 2100 (CTDI)
- CJ 1500 *Profiling Criminal Behavior* (SIDI) was approved (6-0-0)
- CJ 3040 *Race, Class, Crime, & Justice* (DICO) was approved (6-0-0); new number is CJ 3060
- CJ 3500 *Women & Crime* (DICO, GACO) was approved (3-3-0); new number is CJ 3510

- ER 3200 *Assessment in Early Childhood* Removed, at the request of the department, as WRCO (6-0-0); new number is ER 3120
- HIDI 1350 *Medieval Legacies in Our Modern Era* (PPDI) was approved (5-0-0); offered experimentally twice as HIDI 1350 (PPDI)
- HI 4359 *Public History & Local History Methods* (TECO, WRCO) was approved (5-0-0); formerly HI 4358 *Public History* (TECO)
- HI 3746 *History of Traditional China* (GACO, WRCO) was approved (5-0-0); formerly HI 3745 *History of Traditional China* (GACO)
- Waiver for BS Cell and Molecular Biology was approved (4-1-0)
- PS 3115 *Research Methods I* (QRCO, TECO,) was approved (5-0-0)
- PS 3125 *Research Methods II* (WRCO) was approved (5-0-0)

3:00 Consideration of necessary Bylaw changes (p. 15)-

Bylaw language:

- Newly Proposed language from Steering Committee: *Principal Academic Affairs Officer or Designee/Representative*
- Mary's question: Does a *representative* vote?
- Deans have decided *Director of Curriculum Support* no longer exists; Mary Campbell will become *Degree Auditor*;
- Mary will continue serving on the committee because of catalog details so she would be the *Designee/Representative* from the *Registrar*; this position would be non-voting
- Composition of committee would need to be updated: *Principal Academic Affairs Officer or Designee/Representative*; Registrar *Designee/Representative* (non-voting)

3:05 **Questions about the Student Requests from Stacy Curdie**

- As referenced in the Dec. 12, 2017 minutes, the Gen Ed Committee agreed to form a Gen Ed sub-committee to consider requests for students who were shifting from one major with a waiver to another major without a waiver; as stated before, these requests used to go to David Zehr's office, which subsequently went away; then Chairs took on the responsibility, but they felt they couldn't make these decisions consistently; Sub-committee was formed but has not received any requests specific to this agreement to date
- Stacie wonders why Gen Ed Committee just doesn't review all of the Gen Ed student requests, including transfer requests
- Michelle Fisteck has agreed to serve on the sub-committee along with Holly Oliver & Michael Davidson if, in fact, the committee still has a charge!
- Lengthy discussion ensued...

Questions about waivers from Robin DeRosa

- Interdisciplinary program always handled Gen Ed requests internally, which worked well because David Zehr was part of the Interdisciplinary committee; David is no longer serving in this capacity
- Robin took over decision-making, including waiver requests, when David left the committee

- Robin is asking: in the event that Gen Ed or Registrar took over handling student requests with Interdisciplinary majors, what is the order of asking for a waiver? Before or after making the plan? This could be an obstacle due to time; it could take a month to make a major and then submit waiver requests
- Robin is requesting the process remain the same, but is also concerned that there be consistency across campus programs
- Robin is wondering if there could be some set agreement/conditions/stipulations/parameters that the Interdisciplinary could use in making request decisions so we don't lose potential students
- For now, student requests for waivers will stay within the Interdisciplinary program

Question from Carolyn Kinane

- First-Run **Experimental Courses**-do the Deans approve curricular status & Gen Ed status versus going somewhere else (new courses to Gen Ed)? Deans have been doing this, but there is an issue that these should be more faculty-driven decisions?
- FYI-Second-Run **Experimental Courses** go to the Curriculum Committee

Where do we go from here?

- Another lengthy discussion ensued!!
- If Chairs make decisions re: student requests, it would be good to have some type of reporting mechanism to review decisions at the end of a semester and look for consistency
- What if it goes to chair with the ability to appeal? Will students push it?
- Gen Ed Handbook only speaks to waivers, not student requests
- Admissions Office is now making decisions for incoming transfer credits
- Registrar handles internal candidates' requests
- Perhaps a Memo to the administration is in order stating that this complex process has been discussed; the Gen Ed Committee agrees it needs immediate attention; Gen Ed Committee declares an impasse for individual student requests; is this really the responsibility of the Gen Ed Committee?; we are supposed to be a policy making committee with administrative support-do we still have administrative support?

We were not able to discuss the remainder of the items on the agenda; these items will move forward to March 13th

- 4 Credit courses besides SIDI
- January Jamboree model with students
- Gen Ed and FYS working groups update
- Other?

Next meeting: March 13, 2017!

****Rethinking Modern American Literature and the Goal of the DICO Designation**

“Students take a three-credit Diversity (DICO) course (either within the major or not) designed to broaden and deepen awareness and appreciation of differences and commonalities of sub-cultural groups in the U.S.

society defined by differences in race, ethnicity, ability, social class, religion, politics, gender or sexual orientation. Diversity courses do this by exposing students to the life stories and the voices of members of different groups and by exploring issues of equity, opportunity and justice.”

This description, in the General Education handbook, of the objective and purpose of the Diversity designation describes Rethinking Modern American Literature perfectly. I subtitled the course “The Perversion of the American Dream” because throughout the class we explore the various sub-group populations in modern American that have been marginalize and excluded from the “American Dream” because their background or belief system has been labeled as deviant by mainstream American society.

Through our reading and viewing we study: “sub-cultural groups in the U.S. society defined by differences in race (Z.N. Hurston, T. Morrison, S. Alexie; Dead Man), ethnicity (M. Sanchez-Scott; S.Alexie), ability (S.Crane; W.Faulkner) , social class (S. Crane; W.Cather; K.Vonnegut; H.Thompson), religion (S.Treadwell; K.Vonnegut), politics (e.e.cummings; K.Vonnegut), gender (S.Treadwell; Z.N. Hurston) or sexual orientation (S.Treadwell; T.Williams).”

Thanks!

Ann

Ann K. McClellan, Ph.D.

Professor and English Department Chair

SPRING 2017 Office Hours:

MWR 10am-12pm; F 2:30-4, & by appt