

Minutes

General Education Implementation Committee Meeting

October 26, 2004

011 Graham Memorial Building

Members in attendance: Tom Bowers, Joseph Bray, Dean Carolyn Cannon, Glynis Cowell, Clayton Koelb, David Lanier, Gary Pielak, Kelly Rowett, Dean Jay Smith (Chair)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. UPDATE ON COURSE REVIEW FOR NEW CURRICULUM: So far, the Office of Undergraduate Curricula has heard from 16 of the 20 subcommittees reviewing courses proposed to meet General Education requirements in the new curriculum. The Subcommittee on General Education (SGE) hopes to complete its work of reviewing “problem courses” (courses about which the various subcommittees had questions) by the first or second week of November. There will be a rush to complete things over the next couple of weeks, but the review process is still on schedule to be completed in December.
3. FINAL EXAMS: Bobbi Owen communicated to the Committee that the reason in-class final exams are required is to meet the 2250 hour requirement for all classes. Because semesters were shortened to 14 weeks (2100 hours), the final exam is counted as instructional time to equal 2280 hours of instruction per class per semester.

The SGE came across some courses which have oral final exams and wondered whether this was acceptable because in the past, many oral final exams have conflicted with regularly scheduled exams. The Implementation Committee decided that this was a matter of professors scheduling exams at the wrong time and thus was not something with which the SGE should be concerned.

4. PROPOSED REWORDING OF FINAL EXAM REQUIREMENT IN CRITERIA DOCUMENT:

The following is the rewording of final exam requirement in Criteria document that Dean Smith proposed to the Committee:

First Year seminars, composition courses, and other courses designed specifically to nurture a creative process [?] are exempt from the requirement of an in-class final exam; Experiential Education courses may have some form of final project or final evaluation of student work in lieu of a final examination.

The Committee decided to revise it to read:

First Year Seminars and composition courses are exempt from the requirement of an in-class final exam; Experiential Education and composition courses may have some form of final project or final evaluation of student work in lieu of a traditional final exam.

Dean Smith will revise this text for the Criteria Document.

5. **BEYOND THE NORTH ATLANTIC VS. GLOBAL ISSUES:** The SGE came across a number of courses that focused on global processes, but were not rooted in a particular non-NA region and wondered if these courses should satisfy both GL and BN requirements. On one hand, little of the class content focuses on the North Atlantic region (ergo BN by default), and on the other, the course does not introduce students to the culture/history/geography of a particular region or regions beyond the North Atlantic. The Committee looked at the BN Criteria and agreed that the Criteria made it clear that 2/3 of a course meeting the BN requirement must deal with one of the regions beyond the North Atlantic. Therefore, these courses would not meet BN simply by default.
6. **FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES AND THE WRITING REQUIREMENT:** The Committee discussed whether courses meeting the FL (Foreign Language Foundation) requirement should be exempt from the 10-page writing requirement because these courses mostly focus on an oral development of language skills. The Committee discussed that many of these courses require homework assignments that would equal 10 pages of writing, and if not, these courses would certainly meet the intellectual equivalent of 10 pages of writing.
7. **EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION COURSES:** Gary Pielak, chair of the subcommittee reviewing all Experiential Education courses, expressed concern that there would not be enough courses to meet the demand if all students are required to fulfill this requirement. The Committee agreed that more resources would be needed to create more courses as well as the possibility of allowing First Year Seminars to meet the requirement. The Committee will ask Bobbi Owen to the next meeting to discuss this.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.