

## Minutes

### General Education Implementation Committee Meeting

December 14, 2004

011 Graham Memorial Building

Members in attendance: Tom Bowers, Joseph Bray, Stephen Farmer, Clayton Koelb, David Lanier, Gary Pielak, Kelly Rowett, Dean Jay Smith (Chair), Guest: Stephanie Medwid

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. **IRONING OUT DISCREPANCIES IN LANGUAGE DESCRIBING THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND CLUSTER OPTIONS:** Dean Smith brought this issue before the Committee, asking whether the language stating that “none of the courses [in a distributive option] may be in the Division of the student’s primary major” was too severe. The Committee discussed the fact that the language was intentionally severe to make the cluster option more appealing, and to encourage students to explore subjects outside of their major field.

The Committee also discussed their hope that all clusters would include a course in the basic and applied sciences. They decided to leave the language as it is for now, and address this issue at a later date.

3. **CLARIFYING CRITERIA LANGUAGE:** Dean Smith reported that more than once during the course of the syllabus-review process, questions arose concerning the percentages of course material devoted to particular themes. The criteria of some requirements, such as Beyond the North Atlantic World, specify that 2/3 of the course must focus on areas beyond the North Atlantic, while the criteria of other requirements do not specify similar percentages.

The Committee decided to modify the text of the Literary Arts criteria to include the phrase, “2/3 of the course must deal with Literary Arts.” The Committee decided to leave the Visual & Performing Arts criteria as it is because the topic is too subjective, but decided to modify the text of the US Diversity criteria to the following:

“All U.S. Diversity courses should deal with at least two of the following groups or subcultures: African Americans, European Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, or Native Americans. A course that systematically addresses other aspects of diversity such as age, class, disability, gender, sexuality, region or religion is also acceptable.”

Jay Smith and Stephanie Medwid will update the Gen Ed Criteria document with the final changes of the text.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.