

Minutes

General Education Implementation Committee Meeting

March 16, 2004

011 Graham Memorial Building

Members in attendance: Daniel Anderson, Joseph Bray, Dean Carolyn Cannon, Glynis Cowell, Stephen Farmer, Clayton Koelb, David Lanier, Gary Pielak, Kelly Rowett, Dean Thomas Tweed (Chair), Guest: Stephanie Medwid

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.
2. **UPDATE ABOUT ONLINE COURSE FORMS:** Joe Bray reported that the routing system for the 'Re-number All' form was ready on March 12, 2004, and Scheduling Officers were notified that they could submit all renumbered courses at that time. The 'Revision' form was ready for data entry on March 12, 2004, and Scheduling Officers were notified of this as well.

Aside from a couple problems which have already been addressed, Mr. Bray suggested that the online course system is working well.

The Committee discussed future deadlines and communications with units, and Mr. Bray suggested that we could not fix the date at the moment since he is not sure when the routing system for the 'Revision' form might be finished, though he and his team were hoping it might be done by April 1. Because of that uncertainty, the Committee decided to ask Kelly Rowett to send an e-mail to Scheduling Officers, urging them to enter and save all of their course revisions by the end of March. That e-mail will not set a fixed deadline, however. The Committee agreed that Dean Tweed will send a memo to chairs as soon as he can get a more definite date from AIS as to when the routing system for the 'Revision' form will be ready.

3. **UPDATE ON DOWNLOADING MATERIAL FROM UNIVERSITY BULLETIN:** Kelly Rowett reported that she met with Valerie Price in Publications, and they decided that this process will begin in summer of 2005. They will begin by bringing up Valerie's data from the Bulletin and checking it against the data from the new online course system.

Kelly reported that the current online course form, which provides a link to course descriptions in the Bulletin, is working well and she has received positive feedback from Scheduling Officers.

4. **ESTIMATING RESOURCES: THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION:** Dean Tweed presented a draft of a spreadsheet that summarized the estimated costs of implementing the new curriculum, and he sought the advice of the Committee.

5. DRAFTS OF NEW LANGUAGE AND POLICY FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN:

Majors/Minors

To clarify major requirements in terms of “Approaches,” Dean Cannon added the following language: “Departments may use an introductory course in the Approaches area to satisfy a prerequisite for the major, but these majors will not fulfill core requirements. Courses used to satisfy the core may be counted in the Connections area.” The Committee approved this addition to the document they previously approved.

Kelly Rowett and Dean Cannon reported that when an interdisciplinary major/minor is defined as at least 3 courses offered by other departments or curricula or cross-listed with other departments or curricula, only 5 majors/minors are *not* interdisciplinary. With that in mind, the Committee decided to remove all references to “interdisciplinary” majors and minors.

The Committee also discussed whether to change the usual number of semesters required to complete the degree to nine, but decided to allow the original language—8 semesters—to remain.

Dean Tweed reported that he will present this draft to the Administrative Boards at the March 17, 2004 meeting, and it will be sent to the Educational Policy Committee for review after that.

6. REPORT ON TRANSFER STUDENTS AND THE NEW CURRICULUM: Dean Cannon reported that the Subcommittee on Transfer Students met once more and was considering the following recommendations to make to the Implementation Committee:

- Implement new curriculum beginning AY 2006 all first year students, AY 2007 sophomore transfers, AY 2008 junior transfers/all incoming students
- Begin information sessions with prospective students and college counselors now to ensure that prospective transfers will have information to make sound and informed decisions about matriculating at Carolina.
- Understand that negative impacts of the new curriculum will be felt mostly by non-traditional students, students returning after an absence of five years or more, and junior transfers from less competitive two-year institutions.
- Expect Articulation Agreement students to meet the spirit of the new curriculum requirements, rather than one-to-one equivalencies for the Connections.
- Require junior (or sophomore) transfers satisfy 4 of the 9 Connection requirements. They will not have time to satisfy all 9.
- Review carefully the professional degree requirements in Pharmacy to determine how these new requirements would apply.
- Know that transfers will find it difficult to satisfy all requirements in the first 2 years before coming to Carolina. This means extending their time to degree at UNC-CH.

- Update the transfer course database with the help of OUR and AIS. Admissions representatives think this could be a huge undertaking.

The Subcommittee raised the following points concerning challenges of the new General Education Curriculum:

- Rules and regulations in the Undergraduate Bulletin must be compatible with the new curriculum.
- The foreign language enhancement requirement seems to be a major obstacle for transfers.
- Evaluation of courses from other colleges and universities to determine course equivalencies using the new criteria will be a major undertaking.
- The Committee wondered who will evaluate experiential education experiences and determine if students meet the criteria. Who will have this responsibility, an individual or academic unit?
- The Connection requirements will present challenges to transfers, unless there is some flexibility in how courses are counted.
- The Committee wondered if a student can be denied his or her choice of major if it does not seem possible for the student to complete in the time limit.
- The Committee wondered if it is realistic to think that a student can transfer to UNC-CH and complete the degree requirements in a minimum of 45 hours. Should this number be raised to 60?
- The Committee suggested that the decision about how to modify the curricular requirements for transfers be determined not only by the needs of the students but also by our answer to a fundamental question: what is distinctive about a Carolina education?

The Subcommittee will meet once more and will report their final recommendations to the Implementation Committee at the next meeting.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.