

Minutes

General Education Implementation Committee Meeting

March 7, 2005

011 Graham Memorial Building

Members in attendance: Daniel Anderson, Tom Bowers, Carolyn Cannon, Glynis Cowell, David Lanier, Gary Pielak, Kelly Rowett, Dean Jay Smith (Chair), Guest: Stephanie Medwid

Guest: Jon Tolle – *Professor, Statistics and Operations Research*

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **QUANTITATIVE INTENSIVE REQUIREMENT CRITERIA:** Dean Smith invited Jon Tolle to the meeting to discuss the Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement. Dr. Tolle led the subcommittee that reviewed courses proposed to fulfill the QI requirement in the new curriculum, and felt that the criteria were not clear enough. The Committee discussed the fact that courses involving symbolic logic, theory, computation or models would qualify as QI courses. After discussion, the committee decided to change #2 in the General Education Criteria document to “numerical reasoning above the level of basic algebra and trigonometry.” Stephanie Medwid will revise the Criteria document to show this change.
3. **US DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT CRITERIA:** Dean Smith reported that at the meeting of Directors of Undergraduate Studies in February, many faculty members expressed their disappointment with the revised criteria of the US Diversity, and encouraged him to bring the criteria before the Implementation Committee for further review/revision. Two of the main complaints of faculty at the DUS meeting were that 1) the ethnic categories were insufficiently flexible (e.g., they did not allow for a course that compared Korean-Americans and Japanese-Americans), and 2) the very requirement of comparison itself is discriminating. Dean Smith spoke with Lillie Searles, a member of the original Curriculum Review Steering Committee. She conveyed that the steering committee felt that comparison was an important part of the requirement, but felt flexible in terms of the Implementation Committee changing some of the categories.

Dean Smith agreed to rewrite the criteria based on the Implementation Committee’s recommendations. After receiving the Committee’s approval, the revised criteria will be sent to departments and professional schools, offering an opportunity to submit courses that may meet the new US Diversity criteria. The revised criteria as the Committee approved it reads:

Courses must systematically explore the perspectives/experiences of at least two US groups or subcultures (or important groups within these larger communities.) Such groups might include African-Americans, Asian-Americans, European-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, or distinct subcultures within these broad categories. Other culturally distinct groups not identified here may qualify if a case can be made for their cultural/historical significance. A course that addresses in systematic fashion other aspects of diversity such as age, class, gender, sexuality, region, or religion may also satisfy the US Diversity requirement. Courses from many different departments may satisfy this requirement, and the content of the courses may vary widely.

Stephanie Medwid will update the Gen Ed Criteria document.

4. INTENSIVE LANGUAGE COURSES AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT: The Implementation Committee decided that accelerated language courses that encompass levels 3 and 4 in one semester should meet the Foreign Language Enhancement (FI) requirement because they require students to complete a level 4 course.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.