

Minutes

General Education Implementation Committee Meeting September 28, 2004 011 Graham Memorial Building

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **UPDATE ON COURSE SUBMISSIONS/REVIEW OF NEW CURRICULUM:** Dean Smith informed the Committee that the course review process was launched at the Administrative Boards meeting on September 22, 2004. Twenty subcommittees of 3-6 faculty members have been created to review the course submissions, each subcommittee tackling the courses proposed for a particular Gen Ed requirement. Any course that a subcommittee feels should not meet a particular requirement, or has questions about, will be sent to the Subcommittee on General Education, which will make a final decision about the course. The goal is to have all courses reviewed by October 25, leaving time to contact departments about “problem courses” or work out any other problems that may arise.

Joe Bray announced that a possible reorganization of ATN and AIS will be announced the afternoon of September 29. He hopes this will not affect the course review process in any major way.

Stephanie Medwid reported that courses for Sociology, Computer Science, and Statistics/Operations Research still needed to be approved and submitted at the department level. She has contacted these departments and will continue to remind them to submit. Kelly Rowett offered to contact Computer Science and Statistics/Operations Research to ask them to submit as well.

3. **REWORDING OF CRITERIA DOCUMENT REGARDING FOUNDATIONS & APPROACHES:** Dean Smith proposed a revision of text in the Gen Ed Criteria Document:

Foundations, Approaches, and Connections courses may count toward major and minor credit, unless otherwise specified. An Approaches course may meet one or more Connections requirements, and a Connections course may simultaneously meet an Approaches requirement or multiple Connections requirements. Foundations courses may not count for either Approaches or Connections credit except in the following cases: 1) A second Quantitative Reasoning (QR) Foundations course may satisfy the Quantitative Intensive (QI) Connections requirement. 2) A level four foreign language course may be used to satisfy the Foreign Language Enhancement (FI) Connections requirement.

The Committee approved this revision, pending one change; the words “unless a student places into a level four course” will be added to the end of the paragraph. Dean Smith will revise the text and Stephanie Medwid will post the new version in the Criteria Document.

4. **REWORDING LANGUAGE OF CRITERIA DOCUMENT ON FINAL EXAMS:** Dean Smith proposed that there might be other courses (besides First Year Seminars) that should be exempt from the rule that final exams are mandatory in General Education courses. The Committee decided that Experiential Education courses should also be exempt from this rule, provided they have some form of final project or evaluation in lieu of an exam. Dean Smith will revise the text and share it with the Committee at the next meeting.

Dean Smith also brought to the Committee’s attention the fact that many course submissions for the new curriculum do not specifically state that final exams are given. The Committee decided that it should not be assumed that a final exam is given in any course, unless it is specifically stated in the syllabus. For this reason, departments will need to be contacted any time there is a question about a final exam being given in a course submitted for the new curriculum.

5. **STAYING TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF “10 PAGES OF WRITTEN WORK” RULE:** The Committee discussed the current language of the Gen Ed Criteria document and wondered if it could be clarified further. The Committee decided that take home exams in the form of an assigned essay may be counted toward this requirement. Dean Smith agreed to revise the text, and Stephanie Medwid will post the revision on the Criteria Document.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.