

GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes

April 11, 2011

UHB 2028

I. Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2011

A change was suggested to page 2 # IV. Comparative Societies Criteria; the last sentence stating “during the first year of college” is to be changed to “during the first year at UIS.”

John Martin motioned to approve the minutes with the change, Peter Shapinsky seconded the motion and all were in favor.

II. Final Reading and Vote for approval of the Freshman Seminar Criteria

Changes made by sub-committee Donna Bussell, Tarah Sweeting-Trotter, Heather Dell, Tung Nguyen and Karen Moranski in which they added the active learning piece was reviewed.

The Council made several suggestions to add to the criteria. Karen Moranski stated that we need to get some criteria out fast so faculty can work this summer on their classes. She explained we will follow up with further learning outcomes at a later date.

Action: The consensus was that because of time we will put out the current criteria with a time line and two other points, reducing it to one page as the first step. Then with the quantitative and communication pieces added in we will then be able to have an e-vote in order to finalize it and get it out to the faculty for the summer.

III. Peter Shapinsky and Heather Dell's report on the Comparative Societies Meeting.

Comparative Societies has many of the same skills as Freshman Seminar and meshes well with it. CS faculty were concerned about several issues. Anecdotally, attendance gets worse in spring semester. There was concern that, mid-term grades are having an adverse effect on attendance. Faculty have perceived an increased need to work closer with students on core skills and have revised their courses accordingly. Comparative Societies teachers are concerned about class size. They are feeling like they are not able to give individual support. They would prefer to keep the size of Freshman Seminar below 30 depending on the college (it is 30 or higher now). Weekly grading is important and they cannot do that extra work if the size is too large.

IV. General Education Council Annual Report 2010-11 (Draft)

It was stated that the document is reflective but not forward looking. There are places lacking courses in certain areas. Because there are not enough on-ground ECCE courses, the Council would like to see reported how many courses there are by category rather than just the total number.

This document needs to get to Campus Senate, so because of time and the fact that Karen will be in China, it was asked if anyone else would do these revisions.

ACTION: Changes to the final annual report will be made by Heather Dell and sent to Campus Senate.

V. Future General Education Work

- Freshman seminar training
- Global Awareness Criteria revision
- US Communities Criteria revision
- Assessment
- Advising
- Solicit and evaluate Freshmen Seminar

VI. Miscellaneous

- A. Geckos were awarded for meritorious service to the General Education Council.
- B. Steve Schnebly will be taking Jay Gilliam's place on the Council for the AY 2011-12. Natalie Tagge will not be returning to Council as she is leaving UIS at the end of April. We are waiting to see who will represent the Library on the Council.
- C. It was voted to not meet the final week of April.
- D. An e-mail vote was taken for Heather Dell to remain as Chair of the General Education Council for AY 2011-12.
- E. An e-mail vote was taken to approve the minutes of April 11. Jay Gilliam motioned to approve and John Martin seconded the motion by way of first and second e-mails.

The consensus was to accept them with a few changes in wording of the Comparative Societies report made by Peter Shapinsky.

VII. Future Agenda

Intercultural Awareness Rubric for Comparative Societies Assessment.

Addendum to minutes – added on May 19, 2011

Amanda Binder-Harper has been appointment as library liaison to the General Education Council for AY 2011-12.

Heather Dell has been voted in by members of the General Education Council as Chair for AY 2011-12.