

**General Education Council**  
**Minutes**  
**February 11, 2013**  
**10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**PAC 493**

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**Present:**

Steve Schnebly  
Donna Bussell  
Richard Gilman-Opalsky  
John Martin  
Peter Shapinsky  
Harshavardhan Bapat  
Tung Nguyen  
Dorothy Hemmo

**Absent:**

Karen Moranski  
Samia Ahmad  
Patricia Byrnes

I. Announcements

The council talked about deadlines and how many meetings are needed to look at courses. We have one more meeting before our deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup>.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2013

Richard Gilman-Opalsky motioned to approve the minutes of January 28, 2013; John Martin seconded the motion and all approved 7-0.

III. Notification to GECO of course level change - no need of approval

PSC 231: ECCE: Political Ideas and Ideologies – Existing Global Awareness change in level to 331. It was stated that this course was changed to a 300 level because GECO does not want 200 level global awareness courses. GECO does not need to approve a level change but requests to be notified when it occurs.

IV. Courses for Approval

A. PSC 242: Statistics for Social Sciences – Mathematics- Stats

**ACTION: Tung Nguyen will go back to the instructor to clarify the following:**

- Use of software relative to hand calculations
- 8 weeks listed on summer schedule compressed, not enough details on topic coverage.
- Amount of homework, number of problems week to week, is there enough time to teach concepts
- Topic of counting, IAI rules not covered in textbook he uses.

B. CAP 256: ECCE: Nationalisms in Secular Time – Global Awareness

**ACTION: Sent back for a missing course schedule**

- C. ENS 422: ECCE: Environmental Sociology – Global Awareness (existing course requesting ECCE)

**ACTION:** This course does not have enough structure as an ECCE course. Steve Schnebly will work with the instructor on revisions.

- V. Changes to the Global Awareness Criteria – by subcommittee: Steve Schnebly, Peter Shapinsky, Karen Moranski

**ACTION:** Karen Moranski was absent from this meeting. Tabled for her input.

- VI. New Business

Harshavardhan Bapat wished to discuss an issue that was raised. The concern was about what the General Education Council's role is and what the steps are to approve a Freshman Seminar category. The Undergraduate Council would like the General Education Council to develop a rubric for special courses like Freshman Seminar.

It was brought up because a department would like their courses to serve as both Freshman Seminar and a minor. The Undergraduate Council Memo states that Freshman Seminars cannot be used for requirements for a major, but it does not go beyond that to include a minor. It was discussed that Freshman Seminar and a minor are not compatible. Freshman Seminar is used for students to get acclimated to a college setting, comprehension, reading, etc.

Dr. Bapat is requesting GEC to think about what the advantage would be to offering these courses as a minor? At the present time, we do not have an assessment of Gen Ed courses.

**ACTION:** After much discussion it was decided to stop loopholes in the criteria and make a change in the Freshman Seminar Criteria, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence of the category overview to state, "These courses may only be used to satisfy the requirements for Freshman Seminar." Karen will make the changes as soon as possible.

As far as the question regarding GEC, we should solicit feedback from the Freshman Seminar Instructors. We will check with Karen Moranski about the luncheon for instructors. Also to have a conversation with the curriculum committees, and CAP Honors to answer questions about how courses get approved.

Peter Shapinsky motioned to approve the above actions, Donna Bussell seconded the motion. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ply