

General Education Council  
Minutes  
April 8, 2013  
PAC 493

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Present:  
Steve Schnebly  
John Martin  
Richard Gilman-Opalsky  
Dorothy Hemmo  
Peter Shapinsky  
Harshavardhan Bapat  
Donna Bussell  
Samia Ahmad

Absent:  
Patricia Byrnes  
Karen Moranski  
Tung Nguyen

- I. Approval of minutes for February 25, 2013 and April 1, 2013.

**ACTION:** Peter Shapinsky motioned to approve the revision of the minutes of February 25. Richard Gilman-Opalsky seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**ACTION:** Peter Shapinsky motioned to approve the minutes of April 1, 2013, Steve Schnebly seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- II. Agenda open for discussion

Foreign Language

Beginning in the fall semester of 2012, Peter Shapinsky, John Martin and Steve Schnebly got together to find creative ways to give Foreign Languages a bigger part within the Gen Ed curriculum. There is no way to add them directly to Gen Ed hours since we are interested in reducing hours or keeping the hours the same. We would like to tie language into an ECCE category, possibly Global Awareness. Karen Moranski has the most recent language of the criteria, but she is out today.

The English Department was invited to take on foreign languages and they accepted. Both Tena Helton and Maximiliano Sanchez came to the conclusion that languages incorporated into Global Awareness will not increase the enrollment of language. The Council explored what position languages have in the General Education curriculum. Peer institutions and other schools have its own required category for language mostly across the board.

It came up out of the meeting with Maximiliano and Tena that it would be good to require it for Gen Ed. It was stated in a conversation with Dean Ermatinger, that he would support including Foreign Languages

into the General Education curriculum and would like it to be a mandatory component. However, the change should come from the faculty or Gen Ed Council and not dictated by the dean.

Discussion within Council:

Setting the requirement at 1 year or 6 hours of foreign language minimum within the Gen Ed curriculum, is not feasible, as faculty do not want more Gen Ed hours and we are trying to reduce them.

It was asked if we want to have, as a liberal arts university, a foreign language policy. If so, we need to find what the general consensus is in the groups that we need to address, such as the students.

Other thoughts:

It was stated there is a demand among students, but they have to go to other institutions to take them. It was suggested that UIS "step it up."

Proposals

1. Invite Tena Helton to come discuss her ideas of incorporating foreign language into the English Dept. Invite Maximiliano as well.
2. Reevaluate Gen Ed and appoint a working group to do that.
3. Have the debate about Global Awareness, and invite representatives from English, Language, the Business School, Jonathan GoldbergBelle, CAP, and others to sit in on the conversation.

Conclusion: It is important to know that we want to do something and a discussion is part of a wider meaning of Gen Ed at UIS.

**ACTION: Invite Tena Helton and Maximiliano Sanchez to speak at our next meeting on April 22, 2013.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ply