

General Education Council
Foreign Language Requirements
Special Meeting
Minutes
February 6, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
PAC 493

Present: Heather Dell, Sherine Antoun, Ken Owen, Ronda Mitchell, Marcel Yoder, Steve Schnebly, Tena Helton, Bob Blankenberger, Sean Blackwell, Kay McChesney, Pamela Salela

Guests: Peter Shapinsky, Marc Klingshirn, Anibal Maximiliano Sanchez, Adam Clay, Harshavardhan Bapat

The General Education Council met for a special meeting to review the Foreign Language Proposal presented by the Language Working Group which includes Dr. Hilary Frost, Chair of Global Studies; Dr. Tena Helton, Chair of English and Modern Languages; Dr. Marc Klingshirn, Director of Capital Scholars Honors Program; Dr. Anibal Maximiliano Sanchez, Coordinator of the Modern Languages Program; Dr. Peter Shapinsky, Chair of History; and Dr. Heather Dell, Chair of the General Education Council. All were present except Dr. Frost. Other guests included Adam Clay and Harshavardhan Bapat.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the documents “Arguments for Languages” and “The Plan and Options” which outlines the current Gen Ed requirements and the proposed Gen Ed requirements with languages. Parts of the proposal include an Introduction, Reasons to Study Language other than English and How to make it Work.

There was much discussion why the Capital Scholars Honors Program dropped the language requirement. Marc Klingshirn explained that scheduling and issues by science majors made it hard getting in the requirement of four semesters of modern language.

Kay McChesney proposed to reinstate two semesters of language in CAP Honors. Ken Owen seconded the proposal reinstating the language requirement in CAP Honors.

A member suggested that GECO should be a forceful presence on this subject as not all departments will be for it. We need to be totally on board with it and follow through. Changing CAP requirements would be a first step to building a program.

Kay McChesney proposed and Ken Owen wrote the following motion.

“Resolved, that the General Education Council recommends to the Capital Scholars Honors Program that they institute a requirement all students take two semesters of a foreign language. Students must take placement tests to place at the correct level. Language courses will remain open to all students, inside and outside of the Capital Scholars Honors Program.”

Tena Helton seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously 9 for approval, 0 against. This would not be binding until fall 2018.

Kay McChesney proposed and Ken Owen wrote the following motion.

“Resolved, that the General Education Council recommends all BA students take two semesters of a foreign language as a general education requirement. Students would have to take placement tests to place at, or test out of, the correct level. BA requirements will drop one Math course. Programs wishing to offer a BS degree would maintain current general education requirements.”

Steve Schnebly seconded the motion. The vote was 6 for approval, 2 against, 1 abstention.

The meeting concluded with Heather Dell requesting to move the next meeting from Thursday, February 9 to Monday, February 13. The majority were in favor.

Meeting concluded at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ply