

General Education Council
Minutes
April 27, 2015
PAC 493
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Present:

Kenneth Owen
Steve Schnebly
Heather Dell
Ronda Mitchell
Anibal Maximiliano Sanchez
Karen Moranski
Lucia Vazquez
Pamela Salela
Deb Ply

Absent:

Mark Wrighton
Elizabeth Kosmetatou
Kay McChesney

I. Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2015

ACTION: Amendments to minutes of April 13.

III.F. Strike the word “only” in the first sentence of the ACTION. And strike “due to insufficient content to be a Gen Ed course” in last line of ACTION.

Heather Dell motioned to accept the minutes of April 13 as amended. Ken Owen seconded the motion and it passed with 5 yeas and 1 abstention.

II. Approval of Courses

A. COM 141: Sport/Media/Culture and College – Freshman Seminar – 2nd Reading

This was a revise/re-submit to include certain learning outcomes.

ACTION: Ronda Mitchell moved to accept this course with its amendments. Anibal Sanchez seconded the motion. It was passed with 5 yeas and 1 nay.

B. ENG 114: The Real Life Game of Thrones: The War of the Roses – Freshman Seminar – 2nd Reading. This was a revise/resubmit for clarification in the syllabus for student’s understanding and to add more of the learning outcomes.

There was discussion regarding what are the percentages between tenure, tenure track and adjunct instructors that teach freshman seminar courses, and what qualifications non-Ph.D. adjuncts have to teach freshman seminar.

The instructors are hired by the department/college level not the Office of Undergraduate Education. It was brought up that freshman seminar is more of a skills set course with a flavoring of specialized content.

There has been a shortage of instructors to teach enough sections of freshman seminar so adjuncts are used to fill in the gap. We have late-admit students coming in August and desperately need these courses to fill seats. It has been shown that students that do not go through a freshman seminar tend not to succeed as well as those who do. Student Affairs are concerned for the retention of these students. Tena Helton is working on assessment of freshman seminar with the instructors.

Data concerning adjuncts vs tenure/tenure track faculty will be ready by fall, 2015.

We will also need to re-certify freshman seminar courses for the living – learning community Necessary Steps and they need an academic department to work with them.

ACTION: Steve Schnebly motioned to conditionally approve this course and bring it back in spring 2016 to re-certify it. They expect the readings to be included in the syllabus. Pamela Salela seconded the motion and it was passed 5 yeas to 1 nay.

III. Discussion Items

A. Faculty Recognition and Awards

GEC Co was asked for their thoughts on holding a recognition ceremony for ECCE instructors. Our ECCE curriculum is a unique one and faculty who commit to teaching it need to be recognized.

Some ideas were to give an award to one instructor who met certain criteria which is to be determined. Other ideas were to form a sub-awards committee to determine the criteria and instructor choice. It was suggested to research how other institutions to determine who they award to. Karen Moranski will have her staff work on this over the summer.

Another idea was to have a cheese and wine reception and tack on a small workshop to discuss what is right and what needs work with the curriculum. We could give out lapel pins instead of one person being awarded. Or give something to a selected speaker who is teaching ECCE courses.

B. Recap on Foreign Languages

See e-mail posted on Current Meeting Materials

Heather will meet with Anibal Sanchez, Tena Helton, and Marc Klingshirn over the summer to fulfill the commitment to languages at UIS.

C. Part Time, Full Time Ratios by Gen Ed Category. To be brought back in fall 2015.

D. Sub-committee charge on Speaker Series

Lynn Fisher is willing to serve on the sub-committee to review speaker proposals. We need one council member on the committee but then it could be extended to other faculty.

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned to add Lynn Fisher to the sub-committee on Speaker Series. Steve Schnebly and Pamela Salela seconded the motion and it was carried 6-0 to approve.

The sub-committee members for 2015-16 are Ken Owen, Richard Gilman-Opalsky, and Lynn Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ply