

General Education Council
Minutes
April 28, 2014
10:00 – 11:30
PAC 493

Present:

John Martin
Kenneth Owen
Dorothy Hemmo
Anibal Maximiliano Sanchez
Heather Dell
Samia Ahmad
Lucia Vazquez
Mark Wrighton
Karen Moranski

Absent:

Steve Schnebly

I. Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2014

John Martin motioned to approve the minutes of March 24, Ken Owen seconded the motion and all were in favor. 6-0

II. Dates for 2014-15 Gen Ed Council (13 meetings) 10:00-11:30

September 8, 22, 29
October 13, 27
November 10
December 8

February 9, 23
March 9, 23
April 13, 27

There were no objections to posting these meeting times.

III. New Course to Approve

COM 477: ECCE: Global Media & Culture: China

Global Awareness
2nd Reading

There was much discussion regarding whether enough interdisciplinarity and which global perspective is being taught in this course.

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned for COM 477 to be held and brought back to the Gen Ed Council in the fall 2014. There were 2 yeas, 2 nays, and 2 abstentions. Because of the tie, Dorothy Hemmo recommended that

Heather Dell speak to the instructor about interdisciplinarity and global issues and then let it go through. There were 4 years, 2 nays.

The yeas have it and COM 477 will be sent forward to catalog as soon as the Chair has discussed the issues with the instructor.

IV. Foreign Language Planning Process

John Martin, Peter Shapinsky, Steve Schnebly along with Tena Helton were the Gen Ed Council Taskforce to prepare a foreign language proposal. They agreed that foreign language should be incorporated into the Gen Ed Global Awareness category at UIS.

They came up with a proposal for the language process. The recommendation is for upper division or 200 level and above courses. The proposal is as follows:

- 1) Reduce foreign language classes to 3 credits each at the elementary and intermediate levels.
- 2) Require one year of a single language: Take 3 credits from General Education Humanities and 3 credits from General Education Social Sciences and require instead six credits of a foreign language for all students. Students may take a proficiency exam to receive credit for these six hours. We do not recommend that high school coursework be accepted towards this requirement.
- 3) Adopt previously drafted language for the ECCE Global Awareness criterion so that intermediate foreign language can qualify as ECCE under this category. Then review and adopt course proposals for the intermediate level of languages as ECCE Global Awareness. Students may choose to take these courses to gain greater proficiency in the language or as a pathway towards a minor in Spanish while simultaneously receiving up to six hours of ECCE Global Awareness credit.

It was recommended by the Council to add "automatically" to #2: "We do not recommend that high school coursework be automatically accepted towards this requirement."

It was also recommended to substitute the wording "placement" exam instead of "proficiency" exam.

John Martin motioned to vote to approve this proposal today and then send it to Undergraduate Council for their recommendation. Ken Owen seconded the motion. There was much discussion following this motion.

Some of the questions mentioned in the discussion are as follows:

- 1) Can languages fit into a Gen Ed Category?
- 2) This is an institutional issue beyond Gen Ed Council to recommend languages as a graduation requirement for all students.
- 3) What would be the impact on the Humanities and Social Science enrollment, how many sections would there be needed for languages and how much would it cost?
- 4) The issue that we do not know is how many transfer students that would place out of language. What would it take to offer enough sections for transfer students that did not test out?

Heather Dell would like to continue discussion in open forums, and then bring the consultation back to Gen Ed Council next fall.

John Martin went on record as voicing a strong objection to not voting on the proposal today.

Ken Owen made it known he would like to make it clear that today's proposal is the official starting point of a discussion towards approving the proposal.

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned to endorse consideration of the proposal as outlined in this document and hold two forums within 30 days of the start of the fall 2014 semester.

John Martin seconded the motion. Discussion: Karen Moranski recommended that there be some fleshing out of the issues from today and to prepare data for the forums. Karen will be happy to work with people on this and Maxi Sanchez volunteered to work on obtaining the data.

Amendment to Ken Owen's motion to include: "there will be a consideration of changes to the Global Awareness category."

In favor of this motion: 5 yeas, 1 abstention per student perspective.

- V. There was not enough time left to continue the agenda. The following item will be added to the agenda next fall.

Levels of Governance Chart

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Ply