

General Education Council
September 13, 2010
Minutes
PAC 493

Present

Donna Bussell
Jay Gilliam
Richard Gilman-Opalsky
John Martin
Tung Nguyen
Peter Shapinsky
Natalie Tagge
Heather Dell
Harshavardhan Bapat
Karen Moranski
Donald Morris
Pinky Wassenberg

I. Approval of Minutes of August 30, 2010

John Martin motioned to accept the minutes of August 30, 2010 with the amendment to add that the Chair informed the Committee of a proposal from the Dean regarding general education.

Jay Gilliam seconded the motion. All were in favor.

II. Student Petitions

The Chair checked with the Committee to find out how they would like petitions to be brought forward. It was suggested to create a list of responsibilities for the Chair and Associate Vice Chancellor so they can determine whether or not to bring a petition forward. Suggestions included forming a sub-committee for petitions.

A. Al Landeros

The student took the class in 1992 but since the syllabus he sent in is current we do not have an idea what it looked like when the student took the course. It is not useful to today's global awareness. This course is also a 100 level course with no Interdisciplinarity.

Action: Deny

B. John Okwori – see the Wheelock syllabus

There is no clear or obvious link to Interdisciplinarity in this syllabus which is critical. The Council is concerned about transfer syllabi sent in without a

petition. There is no way to know if it is a US focused class or a world focused class.

Action: Have the student send in a full petition and a statement making his case for global awareness.

III. New Courses

LIB 105: South Africa, Apartheid's Legacy Comparative Societies-Social Sciences

Natalie Tagge is the author of this syllabus. She explained the history of this course.

The course will be offered once a year for sure, twice if there is availability of faculty. There may be other permanent courses coming out of the library as they have a long history of content courses being taught.

Action: Approved with the change of workload hours to 4.

Flag for future thought: credit hours vs. workload

IV. Freshman Seminar 101

The syllabus for UNI 101 which is soon to be changed to Freshman Seminar 101 was discussed. It was changed from a one to two hour course this year.

We will take new proposals by the spring of 2012. It will eventually need to be a three hour required Gen Ed course and a new course category will need to be designed.

Faculty will need to be taught skill building (taken from Faculty Development). It will be departmentally owned like all courses, and will be encouraged for all disciplines.

It is proposed that for next year, one year only, making it a three hour course; give the student Gen Ed credit for experimental transition; and make it a Humanities course for one year.

Action: Bring the syllabus back for Humanities criteria. A task force will be formed and include Peter Shapinsky, Donna Bussell and ex-officio Pinky Wassenberg.

V. Proposal for Gen Ed Changes

Attached is the summary of the proposal that goes out to the campus community. We need to excerpt this summary into the proposed resolution that would go to Undergraduate Council in the next few weeks providing the General Education Council is alright with it. The report is due Wednesday September 15, 2010.

Some of the proposed changes to the report are as follows:

Interdisciplinarity courses are preferred but not a requirement.

Change language on p 4

Add a clause that says all discipline topics are extremely welcome.

Add in language about how we deal with students from previous years. They may switch catalog years to get out of elective requirements, but then it will need to be petitioned.

In the paragraph below the bullets on p 5 jazz up and move up in the proposal to make it more appealing to faculty.

How to identify these courses as freshmen seminars. Need to work with the Registrar and add an attribute to banner to identify freshmen seminar. Possibly have departments create a shell course and leave the individual instructor open to teach a topics course.

Initial feedback is required by October 15, 2010. This will go out Wednesday September 15.

- VI. Internationalization Success Profile
Tabled until next meeting.