

**General Education Council**  
**October 11, 2010**  
**PAC 493**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Harshavardhan Bapat  
Donna Bussell  
Heather Dell  
Jay Gilliam  
Richard Gilman-Opalsky  
John Martin  
Peter Shapinsky  
Natalie Tagge  
Student Member: Justin Keenan

**Absent:**

Karen Moranski  
Tung Nguyen  
Pinky Wassenberg

I. Announcements:

A. Executive Committee Meeting and Open Forum sign up:

Sign-up sheet circulated around the room; Heather advised non-tenured faculty have the option to attend alternate college proceedings;

B. Discussion on course size and sustainability

Issue: If courses are capped at 35 students in each General Education section will faculty continue to teach General Education courses?

Abbreviate discussion: UIS policy states that departments are to set course section sizes, but in actuality the deans' offices are setting the caps. It was suggested that the deans' offices set a minimum class size.

C. Announcement / circulation of the call for nominations for the Paul Simon award

II. Approval of Courses

A. **CSC 315** ECCE: *Robotics* (Mary Sheila Tracy)

New course seeking Global Awareness / ECCE attribute

Discussion: Although course meets basic requirements, there was some question as to the availability and accessibility of the course. There was disagreement with the necessity of previous knowledge of coding to enroll in the course. The following suggestions were given to deal with the coding issue: discuss coding on the discussion board in the online sections and make the programming assignment extra credit or optional for students. A suggestion was made to strike the last sentence in the course description (requiring students to have some programming experience).

**ACTION:** Revise & resubmit

Suggested actions:

- Strike the last sentence in the course description (“...some experience programming a computer...”)
- Make the programming assignment extra credit
- Bulk up the cross-cultural comparison link to better meet the *Engaged Citizenship* criteria

**B. MPH 224 ECCE:** *Epidemiology: Science of Disease Discovery* (Josiah Alamu)

New course seeking Global Awareness / ECCE attribute

Discussion: Several questioned how interdisciplinary the course would be as currently presented. It was noted the course lacked both Global Awareness and Comparative attributes.

**ACTION:** Revise & resubmit

Heather will send Richard the form and Richard will work with Josiah to better understand what is required in each category. The proposed course will be sent back to Josiah to revise and resubmit with the suggestion to either make the course a 200-level General Education Humanities course OR to revise the course to be explicitly interdisciplinary. Don will assist Josiah in making the suggested changes to the proposed course.

**C. LES 350 ECCE:** *The American Jury* (Suzanne Borland)

New course seeking U.S. Communities / ECCE attribute

Discussion: There was concern that the course does not focus on a specific community, noting the goal of the U.S. Community concentration is to highlight specific cultures. It was suggested the class could instead focus on specific cases that highlight different cultures to meet the requirement. It was also suggested that “the jury” could be viewed as a temporary community that is formed and disbanded. There was concern that the concept of “the jury as a community” is dangerous in that it defines a “community” in a thinly articulated way – a group that forms and dissipates.

A clear connection to a specific community was not identified. The course as presented is more appropriately classified as a Legal Studies major course.

The concept of viewing conflicts in larger culture by looking at certain cases (such as the OJ Simpson case) was advocated. It was noted that case studies are listed in the syllabus, but the suggestion was made to revise the syllabus to be more specific and to pull in other readings.

**ACTION:** Revise & resubmit.

Heather suggested someone work with Suzanne Borland to address the community issue. Jay volunteered to work with Suzanne.

**D. SOA 222:** *American Society* (Shoon Lio)

New course seeking Social and Behavioral Science General Education attribute

Discussion: In following up on the response to previous questions, the course has been revamped to a broad 200-level introductory course. There was concern that the course is too broad, with an intimidating syllabus that covers too many topics. There was a suggestion to rewrite the course description to read more like an advertisement of the course (and less like a conference paper).

**ACTION:** Motion to Approve (Richard Gilman-Opalsky); Motion Seconded (Donna Bussell)

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly Craig