

General Education Council
Minutes
September 14, 2009
PAC 493

Present:

Terry Bodenhorn
Heather Dell
Lan Dong
Richard Gilman-Opalsky
John Martin
Martin Martsch
Karen Moranski
Don Morris
Tung Nguyen
Peter Shapinsky
Pinky Wassenberg

Absent:

Waheedah Bilal

- I. Welcome to new Council Members Don Morris and Tung Nguyen. Welcome back to continuing members.
- II. Approval of Minutes from the April 27, 2009 meeting.

Peter Shapinsky motioned to approve the minutes. Richard Gilman-Opalsky seconded the motion. Don Morris abstained since he is new on the committee. All were in favor of accepting the minutes of April 27, 2009.

III. Comparative Societies Category Sub-group Report

Sub-groups are being created to review each category's course approval criteria and to re-write them in a clearer and more readable format. The first one to revise is the Comparative Societies Category. A lot of compromise focused on language under the category overview paragraph. Originally the category had a lot of geographically specific and controversial language. They looked at what core ideals to address in the category. The original language does not explain why the category exists. By making that clearer, we will describe what we want students to take away from the course. If we want students to use clear comparisons, we should not be so ambiguous. We want them to understand world views as part of this category. It would be more productive to focus on themes. That's why the document has been significantly revised.

To explain the background for new members, we are trying to make the criteria shorter and to clarify exactly what we expect. The learning outcomes, core objectives, and skills have changed shape several times but have been the same for the last two years. This is the first revision in two years. The idea is to simplify the process for the faculty.

There was discussion regarding the comparative societies criteria draft of September, 2009, simplifying the criteria in order to build a syllabus that includes comparative societies within a

course. Some expressed uncertainty that the category description as currently worded seem to expect competency beyond the level of first year students.

This discussion will be continued through e-mail. We would like to present a fairly solid and finished version to the Comparative Societies Retreat on Friday, September 18.

Approval of Courses

A. ENG 234: Introduction to Film – Humanities

This course meets the 200 level and humanities criteria. It meets the level but needs baccalaureate goals and outcomes woven into the course outcomes specifically. The syllabus should state what skills are being taught, and the instructor should be using the new checklist.

Approved

B. CHE 200: ECCE: Energy and the Environment – Global Awareness

Course meets basic requirement of level and number of hours.
Meets baccalaureate goals and outcomes, has an interdisciplinary approach, engaged citizenship, active learning process.

There were questions about global awareness issues of this course. It was suggested sending it back to re-tool global into the syllabus.

This course has been tabled for further information.

The Council was asked to look at the rest of these courses on line in order to be prepared for the next meeting so we can meet the course submittal deadline.

C. ASP 221: Introduction to Cosmology – Physical Science

D. CHE 262: ECCE: Science and World Religions – Global Awareness.

IV. 300 + lower division Gen Ed.

This discussion was tabled until a future meeting.

V. Student Petition

Karen brought a petition in as a policy issue. The student requested a substitution for a Gen Ed category. It was suggested to ask for a syllabus and a rationale as to how the course fits with the category. This particular one is a waiver for direct experience.

An alternative is to send this to CPL, if he does credit for prior learning or ask him to write a paper. Classes are different because we have mechanisms for learning. It is not sure what he would have gotten out of his experience, just because he was there.

VI. Chair for Spring

This topic was tabled until a future meeting.

Lan Dong moved to adjourn; Richard Gilman-Opalsky seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Ply