

General Education Council
November 9, 2009
PAC 493
Minutes

Present:
Terry Bodenhorn
Martin Martsch
Karen Moranski
Peter Shapinsky
Lan Dong
John Martin
Don Morris
Pinky Wassenberg
Tung Nguyen
Heather Dell

Absent:
Waheedah Bilal
Richard Gilman-Opalsky – with regrets

I. Approval of Minutes from the October 26, 2009 meeting.

There were several revisions to the minutes from the last meeting.

- A. Page 2; Option 3: Change to: “There was considerable debate regarding course caps for comparative societies courses ranging from 20 – 35”.
- B. Page 2; in the paragraph after Option 3 to read “first year seminar.”
- C. Page 3; Option 2: “Reduce ECCE course hours to 10.”

Peter Shapinsky motioned to accept the minutes as amended, Tung Nguyen seconded the motion, all were in favor.

II. Approval of Courses

- A. WGS 334: ECCE: Masculinities – U.S. Communities
This course is **approved** per a change in the course description by inserting the word “communities” in order to identify a Gen Ed category. It is also recommended to acknowledge the disciplines in the syllabus.
- B. AAS 368: ECCE: AA Popular Fiction – U. S. Communities
Approved

III. Comparative Societies Course Approval Criteria – Review Draft

Heather Dell updated the Council on what was accomplished to date. She summarized that a task force was assembled with Peter, Lan, Heather and Karen. Through much debate they worked throughout the summer in order to adopt a draft of the criteria which they brought to the Comparative Societies retreat held in September. The retreat was held with the

Comparative Societies faculty, Karen, Heather and Deb. They tried to make the criteria more acceptable by shortening it and simplifying the language. They came up with a draft to bring to Gen Ed Council.

During the Gen Ed Council Meeting on November 9, there was much discussion regarding the latest draft of the course approval criteria. Suggested changes are as follows:

Geco members discussed disciplinary uses of the words culture and societies and agreed that societies is generally the preferred, more inclusive term.

Category Overview:

1. Remove “understanding other cultures” and “of different societies” so it reads: This category focuses on appreciating the historical complexity and diversity of societies, beliefs, cultures and practices around the world by asking students to engage in comparative, interdisciplinary explorations.
2. Add: “Comparisons must engage students with materials that offer substantially alternative human experiences and world views.”
It was suggested leaving in the hyperlink to a “list of disciplinary specific perspectives and/or course syllabi examples.”

In Content Competencies:

3. Remove “Explanation and example” Separate them by using Explanation: paragraph and then Example: paragraph
4. Number 1, explanation, add “religious” to second sentence.
5. Number 2, first sentence, add “or society” after culture.
6. Number 2, third sentence, change “As a result of a” to “In a” CS course.

Heather will make these changes and e-mail the final version to the committee.

Meeting adjourned 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Ply