

**General Education Council**  
**Minutes**  
**December 12, 2011**  
**PAC 493**

---

Present:  
Heather Dell  
Karen Moranski  
Richard Gilman-Opalsky  
Amanda Binder  
Steve Schnebly  
Harshavardhan Bapat  
Erin Lesko  
Peter Shapinsky  
Don Morris  
Pinky Wassenberg  
Donna Bussell

Absent:  
Tung Nguyen  
John Martin

I. Approval of Minutes of November 28, 2011

Page 1 #II Paragraph 3: Harshavardhan Bapat also needs to be left out of the confidential vote of how to get colleges to step up with creating and teaching new courses.

Change the wording in page 2 Paragraph 1 to: "The syllabus is often thought to be an agreement between the instructor and the student which includes communication, content, objectives and policies."

**ACTION:** Richard Gilman-Opalsky motioned to approve the minutes with changes made. Peter Shapinsky seconded the motion. All were in favor.

II. Freshman Seminar Workshop and Spring 2013 Review Process

The Council was asked to make a decision regarding how Freshman Seminar course syllabi should be processed. There was much discussion whether syllabi should be reviewed by a separate committee at the end of the workshops or for the workshops themselves to be utilized for the review process.

There will be five workshops in the spring, 2012 in order to help instructors write their syllabi according to the Learning Outcomes of the Freshman Seminar Course Criteria. The Office of Undergraduate Education is providing support for training sessions; however help is needed by GECO members in running exercises and activities possibly in small groups, especially for the January 13<sup>th</sup> syllabus workshop.

**Action:** GECO members are to let Karen Moranski know if they are interested in helping during the workshops, especially the January 13<sup>th</sup> syllabus workshop.

It was also discussed when the Council would like to approval the final syllabi. If the syllabi are worked on from the very first workshop, instructors will have time to bring them back to other training sessions. The last workshop is designed to make last minute changes with help by GECO. Then Council can review and approve them during their April, 2012 meetings. That way if there are any that need more work done, the instructors will have time during the summer to complete them. Training begins January 13 and finishes in March. Council must get through them in April to be ready for fall classes.

During the mid-semester of the teaching year, it was suggested to offer special support sessions for instructors.

Action: there was a consensus to utilize the workshop to review syllabi rather than have a separate committee meeting at the end of the semester.

Action: A motion by Peter Shapinsky was made to officially vote to approve the block of syllabi at the end of the workshops during the April Gen Ed Council meeting. The approval was unanimous.

It is to note that the issue of deadlines be addressed during the workshops. Karen Moranski will bring that matter to the instructors.

### III. Student Petitions

Comparative Societies-Humanities comparison to PHL 201 from John Wood Community College, Quincy

A hand-out was given to Council members for evaluating policy in regard to transfer courses proposed to fit in with the Gen Ed curriculum.

In the past if they fit into an IAI category, the AVCAA and the GECO chair would approve the petition. If GECO takes on all the petitions that come into the Office of Undergraduate Education, that's all they will do as Undergrad Ed gets them almost every day.

A vote was requested for all transfer petitions wanting ECCE credit go to the full Council or only the ones that are not a clear fit.

Action: 1. Donna Bussell motioned to have Karen sign off on all syllabi that are IAI compatible. Erin Lesko seconded. All in were in favor.

Action 2: Donna Bussell motioned that those syllabi that do not fit into IAI are to be brought to the full Council. Erin Lesko seconded. All were in favor.

IV. Approval of New Courses

A. U.S. Communities

AAS 433 ECCE: Civil Rights Movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – existing U.S. Communities  
submittal of a new syllabus.

Action: Consensus to approve this syllabus.

B. Engagement Experience

UNI 205 ECCE: Academic & Career Discovery – revised and re-submitted

Action: Approval contingent on integration of the last two paragraphs within the syllabus.  
When the syllabus is received, allow Karen Moranski and Heather Dell to approve it and  
send forward.

All were in favor.

V. Tabled until January 23, 2012.

A. Physical Science

CLS 315/CLS 316: Introduction to Forensic Science  
Reducing level from 300 to 100

B. U.S. Communities

1. WGS 365/AAS 335 ECCE: Black Women in Film History 2<sup>nd</sup> version
2. AAS 239 ECCE: Black Music in American Culture - New

C. Global Awareness

1. LIS 446 ECCE: Literary Heroines - New
2. LIS 447 ECCE: Symbolist Movement in Europe 1850-1920 - Adding ECCE

**The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2012. The location will be announced mid-January.**

**Thank you for your service and have a Happy Holiday.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Ply