

General Education Council  
Minutes  
August 29, 2011  
PAC 493  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

---

Present

Karen Moranski  
Heather Dell  
Amanda Binder  
Steve Schnebly  
Peter Shapinsky  
Don Morris  
Tung Nguyen  
Harshavardhan Bapat  
Richard Gilman-Opalsky  
Donna Bussell

Absent

Pinky Wassenberg

- I. The minutes of April 11, 2011 were approved by e-mail and noted in those minutes.
- II. John Martin has scheduled classes during GEC meeting time but is willing to join task force and joining us next semester.
- III. New Courses

- A. HIS 118      Making of the West      Comparative Societies

This course has been revised from the original title Western Civilization in order to accommodate the General Education requirement for Comparative Societies.

**Action: Approved by consensus**

- B. UNI 205      ECCE: Academic & Career Discovery      Engagement Experience

**Action: Tabled for more information**

**Action: Heather Dell will work with Tammy Craig regarding where the public mission of engaged citizenship is in her course. We will pull a couple of engaged citizenship professional development courses like ART 482 for her to look at.**

IV. Possible and Likely GECO Tasks AY2011-12

A. Form Revision

**Action:** Looking for a GECO task force in order to address the project of turning the standardized course revision forms into electronic versions. The committee will look at the information needed and the ease of use. We will also need to obtain permissions to use electronic signatures on these forms.

B. Global Awareness Revision

**Action:** Postponed for another year.

C. Freshman Seminar Selection and Training

GECO is now taking proposals for Freshman Seminar courses until 9/23/11. We will look at all the courses together and decide whose gets approved for fall, 2012.

In conjunction with the selection of courses, a set of brown bag trainings will need to be scheduled for people interested in proposing Freshman Seminar courses.

**Action:** Schedule brown bag trainings

D. Removing ECCE Electives

ECCE Electives have been eliminated therefore there is work to be done in helping departments in removing them from their courses. Karen Moranski has begun notifying those departments that have independent electives. She is inquiring whether they want to remove the courses from ECCE altogether or only remove from the course list those courses most taught by adjuncts. The third semester language classes were approved as ECCE elective only. Keith Burton is serving as Chair of that Department and is interested in talking about it. Karen asked Peter Shapinsky to forward his proposal to Keith as it is the only one we have.

**Action:** Peter Shapinsky will send copies of his proposal to Keith Burton, Heather Dell and Karen Moranski.

E. Revisiting Comparative Societies Assessment

It was decided to gather materials this semester and complete the assessment next semester.

**Action: Select a GECO task force to go through the rubric and writing samples. This is a must do for this year as we need to take this information back to CASL (the assessment committee) to tell them we are indeed meeting expectations.**

F. Revisiting ECCE Assessment Plan

This can be started this semester. There are several stages of work that can be done in between other things. We need to figure out how it would progress because we will need a couple years of data before the HLC self-study.

G. Course Re-Approval 2006-07

**Action: Not pressing for this year.**

It was decided to identify priorities and rank the tasks as to which ones get done first, and then divide into sub-committees to work on these projects. To save some outside time, we could possibly break out into small groups using some regular Gen Ed Council time to work on these.

Below is the ranking of priority:

1. a. Freshman Seminar course selection and training.
1. b. Removing ECCE electives.
2. Revisiting Comparative Societies Assessment
3. Form Revision
4. Revisiting ECCE Assessment Plan

V. Policy Issue on how to count Humanities General Education for transfer students.

In 2005-06 Gen Ed Council made a policy decision on how we were going to count ECCE credits in DARS. Transfer students were the hardest. We wanted to break down the barriers of not allowing transfer courses to be applied to Humanities fine arts requirement

in order for them to get in to UIS. The maximum way to reduce the barriers was for them to count any 3 Humanities courses. They could take 3 comparative societies, 3 fine arts or performing arts or 3 other Humanities courses to count.

The problem with that is a conflict with the catalog copy that is written according to IAI. For any student to complete a package they must complete a fine arts or performing arts course. DARS governs the way students choose courses and divides up humanities and requires one fine art and one humanities course. However, petitions have been coming in asking to grant any course as exceptions. Occasionally students will try to petition in all fine arts courses as Humanities.

We need the policy to match the catalog. If we go against IAI we would have to allow students to not do a fine arts course. If we abide by IAI then we would need to make the policy clear and require a fine arts/performing arts course to be taken. This policy will cut down on petitions and make it easier on the Registrar and Associate Vice Chancellor to make decisions on transfer students.

A new rule may need to be made for out of state on line students because they are not governed by IAI. This was not received well by Council. They do not want to do that. Karen recommends to stick with IAI and make them all take at least one Fine Arts (VCP) course.

**Action: The consensus of the committee was to make a policy decision according to IAI and require all transfer students to take a Fine Arts (VCP) course. We do not have to change the catalog or DARS, just implementing the policy to stay with IAI rules.**

**To do: Karen Moranski will communicate with Admissions & the Registrar what the decision is.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Ply