

General Education Council
Minutes
September 13, 2017
1:15 pm – 2:45 pm
UHB 2028

Present: Tena Helton, Kay McChesney, Ken Owen, Steve Schnebly, Lucia Vazquez, Stephanie Hedge, Sally Lajoie, Bob Blankenberger

Absent: Sherine Antoun

I. Approval of Minutes – August 30, 2017

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned to approve the minutes of August 30, 2017. Kay McChesney seconded and the motion carried 6 for approval, 0 against, 0 abstention.

II. Recertification of Global Awareness Courses

A. HIS 365: Culture Wars/Europe

After discussion, Ken Owen mentioned that this course demonstrated ethical decision making aspects of the ECCE learning outcomes.

ACTION: Steve Schnebly motioned to approve recertification of this course with the suggestion of adding effective location and use of library materials.

Kay McChesney seconded and the motion carried 6 for approval, 0 against, 0 abstention.

B. HIS 471: Pacific War: WWII in Asia

ACTION: Stephanie Hedge motioned to approve recertification of this course, Ken Owen seconded and the motion passed 6 for approval, 0 against, 0 abstention.

C. ENS 488: China's Environment and the World

ACTION: After much discussion on the research vs. reflection papers and if they both should be included to represent cultural awareness, Kay McChesney motioned to send ENS 488 back for revision. Ken Owen seconded.

After more discussion, the Committee would like a more explicit explanation on how the course materials fit the learning outcomes and to add secondary research. The Committee voted 6 for revise and resubmit, 0 against, 0 abstention.

D. ENS 461: Geopolitics

This General Education ECCE course also serves graduate students. The Committee discussed the appropriateness of having General Education courses on the books that also serve Graduate Education. The course is based on one textbook, little research, and open text exams. It was also stated that it does not meet the cultural awareness component of the learning outcomes. It would need a drastic revision to comply.

Kay McChesney motioned to deny this course, Steve Schnebly seconded based on this course not meeting the Global Awareness learning outcomes. The motion to deny passed 5 for denial, 1 against, 0 abstention.

III. Other Discussion Items

- A. Discussion: What is the difference between a 300 and 400 level ECCE course in regards to approving a course level change? Should a policy be set?

The institution is flexible as long as more material is added for graduate students. For the General Education Council purpose in approving course level changes, the departments need to have a justification why they need to change the level and what changes are being made.

- B. Rules for revisions and timelines for resubmission

Tabled until next meeting

- C. Mike Murphy's e-mail

There was a consensus to not give a response to this e-mail. There seems to be a perception among faculty that asking for assignments because a course is not explicit in learning outcomes is reaching too far into an instructor's teaching methods. The General Education Council's role is to administer a general education curriculum which requires reviewing courses. We do not prevent anyone from teaching courses. Some departments would like the stamp of approval from the General Education Council in order to increase enrollment. The General Education Council strengthens courses to meet institutional goals and its mission. The General Education Council will look into better communicating to faculty on why revisions are necessary.

IV. Adjournment

Ken Owen motioned to adjourn at 2:50 pm. Steve Schnebly seconded and the motion passed 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstention.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Ply