

General Education Council  
Minutes  
September 27, 2017  
1:15 pm – 2:45 pm  
UHB 2028

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

Absent: Lucia Vazquez

I. Approval of Minutes- September 13, 2017

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned to accept the minutes with some changes.

III.C. Remove bullet points and revise the paragraphs to read:

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 mission. The General Education Council will look into better communicating to faculty on why revisions are necessary.

Stephanie Hedge seconded and the motion passed with 6 for approval pending revision, 0 against, 1 abstention.

II. Required cover memo for ECCE criteria – discussion

Does GEC want to implement a specific memo to be required before new courses come in instead of requesting it as they come in? It could be added to the reminder e-mail for U.S. Communities recertification in the spring.

It was decided that it is very helpful to see a one page memo that specifies the points of the Learning Outcomes and where to find them in the syllabus. It is beneficial for faculty to know they could add it to their submissions so as not to have to do more work later.

III. Approval of New Courses

A. CSC 312: Algorithms and Problem Solving - New Physical Science with lab

The Council was concerned about this course being a 300 level lower division course. The policy states lower division should only be 100 and 200 level. Sherine Antoun said there are no 200 level courses in CSC and is concerned their students will not get credit for it. He was advised by GEC to take this up with their new Chair because UIS does

not prohibit any department from offering 100 or 200 level courses. Due to time constraints, Kay McChesney objected to reviewing the course pending a number change.

ACTION: The Council voted 5 for sending it back to obtain a 200 level number, 1 against, 1 abstention

- B. ENS 401: Environmental Justice: Science, Policy, and Activism - Existing course requesting new ECCE Global Awareness designation

ACTION: The Council stressed that this course is very close to fulfilling the criteria, however the Council would like to see more emphasis on global issues rather than just the U.S.

The vote was 7 for revise and resubmit with Ken Owen working with the instructor to bring it back within 2 weeks, 0 against, 0 abstention.

#### IV. Recertification of Global Awareness Courses

- A. SOA 372: Nature, History and Human Action

The Council asked if we could use this course as an example as the memo is precise and ties all the learning outcomes to the assignments.

ACTION: 6 for recertification. 0 Against, 1 abstention

- B. COM 477: Global Media and Culture: China – Revised & Resubmitted

This syllabus is a strong revision and clearly shows the learning outcomes in the assignments.

ACTION: 7 for recertification, 0 against, 0 abstention

- C. AAS 333: Apartheid and Resistance – Recertify and approve level change from 266

There is not enough information in this revision that ties it to the new learning outcomes. The assignments are the bare minimum which are not specified to the students. The Instructor reserves the right to change the assignments during the semester and not define them too early. We need further information, even if it is only shown to GEC, so we can see how the outcomes are used in the assignments. Tena Helton will work with the Instructor.

ACTION: The Council voted 4 for revise and resubmit, 2 against, 1 abstention

D. PSC 372: Global Issues

**ACTION:** Kay McChesney moved to deny recertification based on the syllabus not sufficiently reflecting the objectives of the criteria. The course would need significant revision to be ready for recertification.

Sherine Antoun seconded and the motion passed 6 for denial, 0 against, 1 abstention.

V. Other Discussion Items

The rules for revisions and timelines for submission of courses for certification is based on the deadlines for when the courses will be available in the catalog.

There was more discussion about the perceptions of faculty and the fairness of the approval process for ECCE courses. A timeline was created that shows the openness of the Office of Undergraduate Education and the General Education Council in notifying the faculty regarding workshops and retreats. Instructors who were currently teaching these courses were given a personal invitation to these meetings as well as the current Chairs. Notifications began with a Campus Information Session on the HLC Accreditation in January, 2014 and a Global Awareness/U.S. Communities lunch with faculty on April 4, 2014. Many announcements and other retreats have formed since then until the recertification process began in January, 2017.

Since there are new faculty and Chairs that may not have been invited to these prior sessions, the Council will discuss having an information session every semester on the different categories being recertified in order to make faculty more aware of the process.

VI. Adjournment

Sherine Antoun motioned to adjourn, Ken Owen seconded and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Ply