

General Education Council  
Minutes  
October 11, 2017  
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
UHB 2028

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

Absent: Lucia Vazquez

Visitors: Adriana Crocker, Yona Stamatis

I. Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2017

ACTION: Sherine Antoun motioned to approve the minutes of September 27, 2017; Ken Owen seconded and the motion was carried 6 for approval, 0 against, 1 abstention.

II. Approval of New Courses

A. HIS 447: Sports and U.S. History – New U.S. Communities

ACTION: Sherine Antoun motioned to approve HIS 447 due to it being a close match to the rubric; the Committee appreciated the explanation of how this course fits with other courses within the History Department. Stephanie Hedge seconded and the motion was approved 6 for approval, 0 against, 1 abstention.

B. BIO 334: Great Rivers Conservation – New Global Awareness

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned to revise and resubmit BIO 334 with an openness to change the category of the course to ECCE Engagement Experience.

The Committee discussed some points that there seem to be more emphasis on local communities in Illinois and it is not clear what is being done in Brazil. There are no social issues or cultural awareness/insider point of view from the contact with Brazilian students. There is also a question about power inequities. The recommendation is to send this course back for resubmittal with significant revisions or resubmit it as an Engagement Experience.

Sherine Antoun seconded and the motion carried with 5 for R&R in this fashion, 1 against, 1 abstention.

III. Recertification of Global Awareness Courses

A. MUS 319: Music and Social Justice

ACTION: Dr. Yona Stamatis attended the General Education Council meeting and was given good feedback as to her mapping of the learning outcomes to the assignments. She gave her reasons why this course should be a global awareness.

The Committee discussed revising the syllabus slightly. The sample assignment papers that are mostly U.S. focused will need to include a more global component. The other reaction papers are allowing students to choose their own topics for the final paper which are more globally focused.

Sherine Antoun motioned to approve MUS 319 with the revision, then gave a friendly amendment to provide the syllabus with less U.S. content and add more global content.

The motion was modified to approve this course with the caveat subject to a couple of increased readings on one of the units making sure the readings are more global.

The motion carried 5 for approval with modifications, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

#### B. PSC 464: Latin American Politics

Dr. Adriana Crocker attended the General Education Council meeting to help the committee understand her syllabus. She is teaching this course online, posts readings with discussion, then asks the students to react.

The Committee suggested adding readings listed with the topic on the weekly schedule and add at least one of the smallest and one of the largest assignments to the syllabus for Gen Ed Council's review. It was explained that the syllabus for course approval may be different than the one given to students. Dr. Crocker explained the assignments that are provided to the students do regard racial disparities in Latin America.

**ACTION:** The Council requested more details in the syllabus explaining what was discussed in the meeting. Tena Helton will send Dr. Crocker a checklist and will send the revisions back in time for the next agenda. It will include a discussion form assignment and will specify the readings.

Ken Owen motioned to Revise and Resubmit along the lines of what was requested. Stephanie Hedge seconded and the motion carried 5 for R&R, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

#### C. ENS 311: Global Change in Local Places

After much discussion, the Committee would like to see more information about the readings and where in the schedule specific cultures are being addressed. The readings are taken from a textbook and the Committee wonders how interdisciplinary the book is. They would like to see somewhere in the syllabus chapters written by someone other than one primary race. The issue is how the students are prepared in order to get to the cultural awareness through the readings.

ACTION: Ken Owen motioned to Revise and Resubmit, Kay McChesney seconded and the motion passed 6 for R&R, 0 against, 1 abstention.

D. ENS 422: Environmental Sociology

The Committee was not sure if this course is a Global Awareness because the syllabus does not describe how it meets the criteria. It is unclear where the specific cultural awareness is in the textbook. There are generic topics in the discussions but they do not extend beyond sociology. The requirements for ECCE is interdisciplinarity and this course holds a neutral world perspective.

The other concern is because there is no instructor teaching the course at this time and was introduced by the Department Chair, the course is not complete.

Sherine Antoun motioned to deny recertification of ENS 422. Steve Schnebly seconded the motion for the reason there is no instructor unless the Chair wants to build an entire course by himself. As it currently stands there is no specificity of cultural awareness in the readings nor assignments.

After more discussion Steve Schnebly rescinded his seconded motion. He then motioned to hold this course open and Revise and Resubmit when an instructor is assigned. Stephanie Hedge seconded and the motion carried 4 for R&R, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

E. CAP 254: Walls – tabled until next meeting

IV. Faculty Awareness Informational session every semester on ECCE categories.

A Revise and Resubmit was not requested on one of the courses submitted for Global Awareness recertification but rather denied due to the extent of work needed to bring it up to meeting the criteria. Because of the reception of the instructor, it was suggested that we hold informational sessions every semester to discuss Gen Ed Council's review process. Workshops may be held to help any faculty who need assistance with their revisions depending on which category is being reviewed at the time.

A session will be planned for spring, 2018. Ken Owen volunteered to help.

V. Meeting adjourned 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Ply