

**General Education Committee Minutes**

February 22, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

**Members Present:** Alex Cohen, Eva Czarnecka, Sid Dobrin, David Julian, Lynn O'Sickey, Morgan Pigg, Alison Reynolds, Brenda Smith, Bethany Taylor and Robert Thomson

**Co-Chairs:** Bernard Mair and Creed Greer

**Executive Secretary:** Ann Greene

**1. Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members:**

Dr. Mair welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

**2. Minutes from the Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved:**

**3. New SLOs align with Old SLOs**

The committee discussed how to align the new Student Learning Outcomes (adopted last Spring) with the old institutional SLOs. It was noted that the new SLOs are very general and do not contain valuable information in the old ones. The committee recommended that the descriptions of the general education areas (or categories) should be revised to include the information in the old SLOs. David Julian and Bethany Taylor agreed to continue their initial work on this revision, and to include Eva Czarnecka in the project.

**4. Zero Enrollment Courses**

General Education (GE) courses have a three year review cycle. As a part of this review process, the committee approved the policy that courses with no enrollments for a period of three consecutive years would automatically lose their GE designation unless a new application was approved by the committee. A list of courses that had zero enrollments from 2009-12 was reviewed and the committee agreed that they should lose their GE designations Fall 2013 unless new applications were submitted and approved.

**5. GEC Course Recertification**

As a result of reviews of courses in the Spring of 2012 the committee recommended decertification for AST 1002 *Discover the Universe*, ENY 1001 *Bugs and People*, and ORI 2000 *Oral Interpretation of Literature*. The colleges and instructors were notified and applications for AST 1002 and ENY 1001 to restore their General Education designations were later resubmitted and approved. ORI 2000 has not submitted an application so lost its GE designation effective. The committee discussed the reviews of the other courses and made the following recommendations.

ANT 2301 *Human Sexuality and Culture*, ENC 1101 *Expository and Argumentative Writing*, ENG 2300 *Film Analysis*, REL 2121 *American Religious History*, RTV 3405 *TV and American Society* – These courses are meeting the general education standards so should keep their current designations.

DAA 1000 *Fundamental of Dance* – The syllabuses of the different sections need to be revised so that they have the same course schedule and grading scheme. It was recommended that Mair

discuss this recommendation with the department Chair in addition to providing them with written notification.

URP 3001 *Cities of the World* – This course is offered in both face-to-face and online modes. The online sections differ from the face-to-face ones in course schedule and teaching method. The syllabuses of the different sections need to be revised so that they present the topics in the same order and have the same grading scheme. It was recommended that Mair discuss this recommendation with the department Chair in addition to providing them with written notification.

EEX 3093 *Exceptional People* – The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) on the syllabus are very general (taken verbatim from the general education requirements), and do not indicate any specific topics covered in this course. There is no indication how the course relates to a discipline and no identification of what theories or methodologies are used in the course. From class observation and the syllabus, it is not clear how students can use the course to meet the SLOs. There is also a concern about the depth and rigor of the subject matter covered in the course and the lack of opportunities for critical thinking and discussions in the class. The academic honesty statement in the syllabus includes a penalty for plagiarism on that is almost trivial and does not make any distinctions between first-time and multiple-time offenders. The committee concluded that the course has merit but it was not demonstrating some critical requirements, including a theoretical or conceptual framework, and more specific SLOs. The committee recommended that this course lose its general education designation (S, D) effective Spring 2014. It was recommended that Mair discuss this recommendation with the department Chair in addition to providing them with written notification.

FOS 2001 *Man's Food* – This is an online course with large enrollments, typically, 1,400 in each Fall and Spring semester and 700 in the Summer. It is taught by a single instructor assigned 0.50 FTE and one Teaching Assistant. Despite this “modest level of funding, the course provides a forum that delivers basic knowledge of nutrition, food safety, its global impact and its impact on society, and connection to one’s health.” However, the course does not adequately address the Biological Sciences SLO related to formulation and testing of hypotheses and the general education requirements for communication. The instructor was willing and able to improve the course to meet these requirements but is hampered by a lack of resources. The committee concluded that the course has merit but due to these weaknesses recommended that this course lose its general education designation (B) effective Spring 2014. It was recommended that Mair discuss this recommendation with the department Chair in addition to providing them with written notification.

#### **6. Fall 2012 Critical Thinking Assessment:**

In Fall 2012, a pilot test of using course-embedded assessment of critical thinking was done in a few courses in CLAS. The results of that pilot were distributed to the committee for discussion at a later time.

#### **7. QEP SLOs:**

The committee observed that the revised Internationalization SLOs were too broad and vague; and included aspects of both “Diversity” and “International” categories. They concluded that these SLOs could not be aligned with the general education “International” category.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25p.m.