

**General Education Committee Meeting**

February 7, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Bernard Mair, Creed Greer, Timothy Brophy Shannon Cochrane, Suzanne Colvin, Eva Czarnecka, Sid Dobrin, Christopher Hass, David Julian, Tanya Koropecykj-Cox, Andy Ogram, John Palmer, Alison Reynolds, Vicki Sarajedini, Brenda Smith, Bethany Taylor and Joshua Williams

**Absent:** Elif Akcali, John Krigbaum, and Lynn O'Sickey

**Executive Secretary:** Ann Greene

**1. Minutes from January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with the following corrections:**

- Item #3 in the second sentence-remove the word "of"

**2. Proposed Language Changes of the Program Area Objectives**

The committee approved the revisions of the Program Area Objectives as follows:

**Biological Sciences (B)**

Biological science courses provide instruction in the basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method in the context of the life sciences. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern biological systems. Students will formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of living things, apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument, and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking to evaluate outcomes of experiments.

**Diversity (D)**

Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups in the United States. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relations to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups. (This designation is always in conjunction with another program area).

**Humanities (H)**

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

**International (N)**

International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that constitute the contemporary cultures of countries outside the United States. These courses lead students to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect these cultures and the lives of citizens in other countries. Through analysis and evaluation of the students' own cultural norms

and values in relation to those held by the citizens of other countries, they will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the rest of the contemporary world. (This designation is always in conjunction with another program area).

### **Physical Sciences (P)**

Physical science courses provide instruction in the basic concepts, theories and terms of the scientific method in the context of the physical sciences. Courses focus on major scientific developments and their impacts on society, science and the environment, and the relevant processes that govern physical systems. Students will formulate empirically-testable hypotheses derived from the study of physical processes, apply logical reasoning skills through scientific criticism and argument, and apply techniques of discovery and critical thinking to evaluate outcomes of experiments.

### **Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)**

Social and behavioral sciences courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

In addition the committee agreed to change the format of Diversity and International by placing the descriptive sentence the first sentence in the category of the area.

### **3. Recertification of Courses**

David Julian reported that most of the courses reviewed met the General Education requirement except for their syllabi that need to be updated to align with the current format.

4. The committee debated the current expectation that all General Education courses are required to include the three Student Learning Outcomes of Content, Critical Thinking and Communication. After much discussion it was decided to keep this requirement. In particular, General Education Math courses are required to include critical thinking and communication.

5. **Recertification of MAC 1105 *Basic College Algebra***, Needs to be revised to meet (M) requirements by Spring 2015 to keep designation.

MAC 1105 satisfies the Content area but not Critical Thinking or Communication. It was mentioned that the communication requirement takes the discipline into consideration, so how it is met in Math could be different from other disciplines. This would require changing the grading method since currently grades are determined exclusively by multiple choice exams. The committee discussed ways in which MAC 1105 could include these components, such as:

- requiring students to write out solutions to some exam problems, which is done in Calculus
- having students work in teams in the discussion sections and explain answers to questions to each other.

Dr. Mair will discuss the recommendation with the department Chair in addition to providing them with written notification.

Due to time constraints ECO 2013 was tabled.

The committee discussed the importance of keeping faculty regularly informed of changes to General Education requirements, review processes and other General Education matters.

Dr. Brophy stated that David Miller from the College of Education has agreed to analyze data collected in the Spring 2013 Assessment to determine the reliability of the rubrics and also the degree to which the criteria in the rubrics are discrete.

#### 6. Courses for Review

Course#	Title	Current GE & WR	Request	Status
ANT 3478	Global Health Cultures	NONE	S, N	Approved
ARH 1003	Masterpieces of Art (This course received a new number from SCNS, which automatically triggers GEC to review)	H	To keep current designation	Tabled
ARH 2000	Art Appreciation: American Diversity Global Arts	NONE	D, H	Denied
ENC 3246	Professional Communication for Engineers	NONE	C, E6	Approved
NSC 1140	Sea Power and Maritime Affairs	NONE	E2	Approved
VTT 3500	Vietnamese Culture	NONE	H, N	Approved

**ANT 3478** *Global Health Cultures*, Approved (S) and (N) effective, Summer 2014.

**ARH 1003** *Masterpieces of Art*, The course number change triggered an automatic review of its General Education designation of Humanities (H). Due to time constraints the Gen Ed committee tabled this course.

**ARH 2000** *Art Appreciation*, Denied H and D. The syllabus does not specify how the Student Learning Outcomes will be achieved. The method of assessment does not enforce academic integrity. There are too many opportunities to accumulate points without much effort or individual work, and there is not much interaction between the student and the instructor.

**ENC 3246** *Professional Communication for Engineers*, Approved C and E6, effective Fall 2014.

**NSC 1140** *Sea Power and Maritime Affairs*, Approved E2, effective Spring 2014.

**VTT 3500** *Vietnamese Culture*, Approved H and N, effective Fall 2015.

#### 7. Creation of Example Syllabus

David Julian stated that Shannon Cochrane had developed the Example Syllabus. Dr. Mair thanked Shannon for developing the syllabus and asked the committee to review it for discussion at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05a.m.