

**General Education Committee Meeting**

April 17, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

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

**Absent:** Elif Akcali

**Executive Secretary:** Ann Greene

**1. Recertification of Courses**

The following courses were reviewed this year.

- AFH 2000 *Africa in World History*
- AFH 2450 *Modern Africa*
- AMH 2020 *United States since 1877*
- ANT 2000 *General Anthropology*
- BSC 2010 *Integrated Principles of Biology*
- CHM 2045 *General Chemistry 1*
- ECO 2013 *Principles of Macroeconomics*
- EEX 3093 *Exceptional People*
- FOS 2001 *Man's Food*
- GEO 3430 *Population Geography*
- MAC 1105 *Basic College Algebra*
- MAC 2311 *Analytic Geometry and Calculus*
- MGF 1106 *Liberal Arts Mathematics 1*
- MGF 1107 *Liberal Arts Mathematics 2*
- MUL 2010 *Introduction to Music Literature*
- PHI 2010 *Introduction to Philosophy*
- PHY 2020-1 *Introduction to Principles of Physics*
- PHY 2020-2 *Introduction to Principles of Physics*
- PHY 2048 *Physics with Calculus 1*
- PHY 2053 *Physics 1*
- POS 2041 *American Fed Government*
- PSY 2012 *General Psychology*
- REL 2174 *Social Ethics/Religion*
- STA 2023- *Introduction to Statistics 1*
- SYG 2000 *Principles of Sociology*
- THE 2000 *Theatre Appreciation*

Of these, AMH 2020 *United States since 1877*, ECO 2013 *Principles of Macroeconomics*, EEX 3093 *Exceptional People*, FOS 2001 *Man's Food*, MAC 1105 *Basic College Algebra* and SYG

2000 *Principles of Sociology* have already received memos regarding their status and have agreed on a course of action. The reviewers of the remaining courses found that they met the required GE requirements regarding area objectives and outcomes, but their syllabi did not meet the requirements. The committee accepted the recommendations for all these courses. A letter will be sent to the departments and colleges informing them of the need to submit revised syllabi that conform to the GE syllabus policy. Each revised syllabus will be reviewed by the original reviewer for the course. The reviewer will approve the syllabus if they were confident that it meets the requirements, but otherwise will refer it to the committee for review.

## **2. Proposals for the Grand Challenge Core**

Dr. Mair first commended the colleges on doing such a good job in creating the course proposals in such a short period of time. There were eight in the Social Sciences and four in the Natural Sciences, all the courses were very interesting, multi-disciplinary courses. Although the intent was to choose three courses in each area, only one in each area was chosen – “The Challenge of Climate Change” and “Understanding Data” in the Natural and Social Sciences respectively.

Dr. Mair will discuss these courses with the colleges to make revisions that will make them more in line with the pre-eminence programs, broaden their scope, increase rigor, and make them align with the GE objectives and outcomes. The plan is for them to be developed in detail this summer and offered in small sections, possibly in the Honors Program, this Fall. Although the courses have been chosen, it does not mean that they will go forward without modifications.

The General Education Committee should review the submitted syllabus to determine if the course meets the requested general education designation and if the materials are appropriate. The format of the syllabus is not a concern now, but the review should get to the intellectual content, if the material is at the right level, and if additional topics should be included in the course.

The committee discussed the syllabus submitted for these courses and found that they both needed to include more material on the topics of interest that have a bearing on the GE designations. This was particularly true for the “Data” course for which they also recommended a change in the title. Many alternatives were suggested but none was found suitable. There was some concern about the lack of Social Science content in the “Data” course. Although the “Climate Change” course includes global topics, the committee did not see how this could be used to meet the International designation.

## **3. Gen Ed Assessment Sub-Committee Report**

David Julian briefly discussed the assessment report that will be presented to the committee at the next General Education meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.