

General Education Committee Minutes

May 8, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Fiona Barnes, Barbara Curbow, Sidney Dobrin, Melissa Johnson, John Krigbaum, Mark Meisel, Lynn O'Sickey, Morgan Pigg, Brenda Smith, Bethany Taylor, Robert Thomson, and Theresa Vernetson,

Guest: David Miller

Co-Chairs: Bernard Mair and David Julian

Executive Secretary: Ann Greene

1. Minutes from the March 16th and April 6th meetings were approved:

Amendment for April 6th minutes under #2 – Meisel expressed concern about the significant percentage of graded work that is being performed un-proctored online (45% - 3grades and 15%- final) 60% half of the course un-proctored online test.

The last sentence in #2 the word “*suggested*” is needed.

2. Internationalization Quality Enhancement Program (QEP):

David Miller, Chair of the Internationalization Task Force and the director of the QEP, presented the task force report. Miller stated that one of the things that the task force has done is to develop a working definition of what is meant by Internationalization, and Student Learning Outcomes. The ITF is in the process of building a plan to make sure that they are not duplicating efforts, working cooperatively with other things already on campus and respecting all the work that has been done around Internationalization on campus.

At the ITF meeting last month one item of discussion was curriculum and how it would fit together with the designation of the international courses on campus. After speaking with Bernard Mair, Miller thought about how the student learning outcomes that the task force has developed would fit with the Gen Ed student learning outcomes for international courses. Since the Gen Ed committee is in the process of rewriting their SLO's he thought it would be a good idea to incorporate the two to develop one set of student learning outcomes and then use the data from those taking courses for SACS to show effort on the QEP. They have a written plan that needs to be given at the same time the SACS Accreditation team comes to UF. They will review the plan and want something put into place. The concept is a 5-year plan.

Meisel commented that combining the two sets of SLO's was an excellent idea but suggested that the “*and*” in the definition of Internationalization should be “*or*”. He also stated that in the SLO's # 3 is well stated; but in #1 and #2 “*global and*” means that the student needs to know all the other competencies and communities around the world.

Barnes stated that from the assessment point of view concern is with Intercultural Competence and SLO #3 how one would assess the “*effective communication*”. Mair explained that one idea could be to use the significant international student population on campus as way of assessing communication – professors could dedicate a number of classes to allow other students from other cultures to come into the classroom and actually communicate with the students in the class.

Miller stated that communication is not only oral; it can also be through writing. The word interaction was removed and replaced with communication to be used as a broader word which would allow another way of looking at it in a course.

Vernetson stated that the QEP is not the same as assessing the Gen Ed International or Diversity issues. It is not every student, it is not every course, and it is more a campus wide initiative. The Internationalization QEP is not a General Education initiative; it is a campus wide initiative for all undergraduate students.

3. Course Reviews:

AEB 2451 *Economics of Resource Use*, The course title change triggered an automatic review of its General Education designation of Social Science (S). The Gen Ed committee revoked the (S) designation effective Spring 2013 for the following reasons:

- the syllabus needs to include more details on the assigned readings
- the “performance” column regarding grades should be removed as the terms are misleading (note that C- is not a passing grade to receive for Gen Ed credit)
- the syllabus should include the following statement “*a grade of C or better is required to earn Gen Ed credit*”
- a UF grading link needs to be included

HUM 1XXX *Dynamic Creativity & Strategic Innovation*, Denied H. The committee felt that the course outlined in the syllabus did not address a humanities discipline, as it focused on the process of creativity.

HUM 2592 *Introduction to Arts in Healthcare*, Denied H. The committee decided that the course does not meet the (H) designation as its focus was on the use of the arts in Healthcare more than the arts itself.

MUH 3530 *Popular and Traditional Music of Africa*, Approved H, N effective Fall 2012.

MUL 3693 *The American Musical: Broadway and Beyond*, Approved H, effective Fall 2012.

Denied Diversity (D). The readings in the syllabus do not demonstrate that the course involves a significant diversity component. The committee recommends changing the title of the course to more accurately reflect the content and avoid the impression that it is mainly concerned with viewing musicals.

REL 2166 *Religion and the Environmental Crisis*, Approved H, N, E2, effective Fall 2012 subject to correcting the designation (I) on page 3 of the syllabus to (N) for International.

REL 3108 *Religion and Food*, Approved D, H, E2, effective Fall 2012 subject to correcting the designation (I) on page 3 of the syllabus to (D) for Diversity.

4. Report from the Assessment Subcommittee:

Communication, Content and Critical Thinking Rubrics – Theresa Vernetson presented these to the committee for approval. They were unanimously approved. Vernetson thanked those who served on the committee and noted that Kim Martin, James Demery and Tim Brophy assisted them.

5. Update on Recertification of Courses:

The Dean of the College, department chair, and instructor of the following courses will be notified that the committee has revoked their Gen Ed designations effective Spring 2013.

ORI 2000 - Oral Performance of Literature (H) – Barnes reported:

- The syllabus does not contain any information on the humanities designation.
- The course does not focus on literature, storytelling, or the characterization and interpretation of literature.

ENY 1001- Bugs and People (B) – Curbow reported:

- The course objectives fall into humanities, anthropology, history, agricultural medicine and nutrition. The syllabus states that the course is not biology focused.
- The class is scheduled to meet 3 times each week as it is a 3 credit course but the syllabus states that there are no meetings on Fridays as those days are set aside as reading days for the text.
- As much as 9% of the course grade is determined by bonus points.
- The final project is to build a food item that looks like a bug and students come dressed as a bug.
- Attendance is a huge issue with this class.

AST 1002 – Discover the Universe (P) - Miesel reported

- The class is required to go to the telescope on campus to get a token, look at the clouds, write what they see and not use the images out of the book, and use their own language.
- Only 3 of the 7 sections require students to formulate empirically testable hypotheses; 2 sections include this as extra credit. Other sections use only test banks for exams.
- The syllabuses for some sections are not posted on line.
- Requirements for the course vary significantly between sections.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.