

**General Education Committee Minutes**

February 11, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm

**Members Present:** Fiona Barnes, Barbara Curbow, Creed Greer, Melissa Johnson, John Krigbaum, Mark Meisel, Andrew Ogram, Morgan Pigg, Lynn O'Sickey, Brenda Smith, Michael Weigold, Joe Wilson, Greg Zuest

**Co-Chairs:** Bernard Mair and Robert Thomson (absent)

**Guest:** Dr. Mark Panning

**Executive Secretary:** Ann Goodson

1. Dr. Mair opened the meeting.
2. Minutes from the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with the following corrections:
  - John Krigbaum stated that he was absent at the meeting of Jan 14th

**3. Course review:**

**GLY 1880** *Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Other Hazards*, Approved P.

This course was reviewed in November of last year and denied due to the lack of the committee's inability to see that it included the hypothesis testing part of the Gen Ed Requirement for the Physical Sciences.

Dr. Panning offered additional information on the hypothesis testing by using the clickers system in relation to classroom demonstrations and there are additional assignments that the students are required to do. Dr. Panning gave an example of one demonstration which involves a model of a killer whale made out clear gelatin they would inject magma from underneath. The students obtain the data from a variety of data sources on line and then they generate the hypotheses through guided exercises. Creed asked him to talk them through the tutorial, one example was to pick a stream from where they are from and they are guided to the USG website to download stream gage data, from that goes over the past 80 years, they plot this up in then they are guided towards figuring out likely it is for a flood with certain magnitude to happen in the X number of years.

After much discussion concerning the syllabus is not very specified as to how the course is being set up; the theory of how plate tectonics are explained in the syllabus; hypotheses testing generally.

**REL 2300** *Introduction to World Religions*, Approved adding N.

**AEB 3671** *Comparative World Agriculture*, Suspended indefinitely N, S.

The syllabus does not adequately satisfy the Social Science designation. The course is an online course, no face to face meeting, no book, lectures constitute the book and the grading format of the course was questioned because everything is on line there is no onsite test, no proctored exams except for a possible final examination quiz. Fiona stated that their college has the undergraduate students take proctored exams at various places on

campus. Dr. Mair stated that is the standard we have for online courses is they need to take exams proctored or secure so that we know who is taking exam. For a course to have no proctored exams, and no secure exams all online are really not allowed at the University of Florida.

- 4. Petition Process:** As you are aware we give the instructors to ability to petition on behalf of the students who have taken courses not designated Writing after the course has been taught to petition for the student to receive Writing credit. We have been receiving quite a number of petitions especially from students who are getting ready to graduate, and they would like to know ahead of time if they successfully complete this course that they will be able to graduate having satisfied the Writing Requirement.

Dr. Mair asked for volunteers of two or three people to form a sub-committee to help with approving petitions. The committee agreed to ask for the paper with the original feedback from the instructor. Finally the committee decided to discontinue the petition process.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm