

Minutes

Joint Meeting with Academic Matters Council and General Education Council Thursday, July 23, 2009

Attendees: Maurianne Adams (Gen Ed), Martha Baker (AMC), Carol Barr (AMC), John Cunningham (Gen Ed), , Alexandrina Deschamps (Gen Ed), Isabel Espinal (Gen Ed), Ginger Etinde (AMC & Gen Ed) Claire Hamilton (Gen Ed), Anne Herrington (Gen Ed), John Jenkins (AMC Chair), Randall Knoper (Gen Ed), John Lenzi (AMC & Gen Ed), Pamela Marsh-Williams (AMC & Gen Ed), Ernie May (AMC & Gen Ed), Dori McCracken, (Gen Ed), Daphne Patai (AMC), Amanda Walker-Johnson (Gen Ed)

Summary

John McCarthy gave a brief summary of the progression toward the need for four credit courses and the integrative experience in the junior and senior years. Since the importance of the General Education program was not perceived by a major portion of the student body, the Gen Ed Task Force was formed. The Task Force was responsible for producing the Gen Ed web page, which will best provide education about the program's importance. As the campus presently has a one-year stimulus allocation due to budgetary constraints, the Task Force's goal is to find the same, or even better ways, of education – with fewer faculty due to attrition without replacement - before September 2010.

Discussion

Maurianne Adams suggested that the Rules Committee document the process and sequence of steps for the changes in Gen Ed requirements. She commented that having a developmental report every six months to a year will be necessary for evaluation and morale, ensuring equity within the reformed requirements. John Jenkins urged that the deans need to unite due to fewer faculty and constant student load, and be bound for a favorable reply to the AMC & Gen Ed regarding the changes. The goal is to get the administration's acceptance, then clarify the details later. John Cunningham noted that the faculty still has the ability to veto those changes. However, Ernie May affirmed that if the AMC, Gen Ed and Gen Ed Task Force could get the materials together and submit them to the Faculty Senate, 90% would be approved.

Concerning the move from three- to four-credit Gen Ed courses, Isabel Espinal inquired as to whether the MSP has had a favorable outlook on the transition. Committee members suggested there be a joint meeting with the MSP to discuss their viewpoints. Anne Herrington stated that it is important to take time to evaluate the quality work that will be implemented in the credit increase. She stressed that this proposal will not get support if the evidence of four credit work is not clearly reflected within the course requirements. Carol Barr asked that "since the number of courses will decline due to the four-credit transition, how will the curriculum be determined?" John Cunningham suggested that curricula should consider marketing student enrollment in its redesign. With regards to this, Daphne Patai added that the past precedent usually governs workload. She suggested that a volunteer system for faculty to teach four credit courses should be developed since each faculty's workload directly affects others within their department, and by not establishing such a system, it could lead to an undesirable result. Maurianne Adams suggested that a solution would be to educate faculty about the four credit transition through seminars/workshops, which would include instructors/lecturers and TA's/TO's. Ernie May affirmed that the Senate must adopt the new structure by this fall term.

General Education Revision

The 'I' and 'SI' will no longer exist within the designation. However, these could substitute for the second required course within a designation. For example, the new curriculum could allow a student to substitute one four credit 'I' or 'SI' for an "SB" and another social world course. The Task Force will work with the Registrar to decide which designation the 'substitutes' will best fit in to, and also create written documentation to support this.

Voting

Final Report of the General Education Task Force 2007 – 2009 PASSED by AMC

Final Report of the General Education Task Force 2007 – 2009 PASSED by GenEd

Special Report of the Dean of Undergraduate Education on
Modifications to General Education Requirements June 29, 2009 PASSED by AMC

Special Report of the Dean of Undergraduate Education on
Modifications to General Education Requirements June 29, 2009 PASSED by GenEd

Motion to add to Summary Table:

“We recognize that the final report from the General Education Task Force inadvertently fails to recognize General Education interdisciplinary courses as fulfilling the same position of General Education requirements. Therefore, we charge the implementation task force with devising a way for them to be included.”

MOTION PASSED by AMC and GenEd

Summary Table: Effect of General Education Revisions Endorsed
by the General Education Task Force PASSED by AMC

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by the General Education Task Force PASSED by GenEd