

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, September 18, 2009

Attendance:

Maurianne Adams, Martha Baker, Genevieve Chandler, Stephanie Chapko, John Cunningham, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, David Fleming, Judy Goodenough, Claire Hamilton, Anne Herrington, Amanda Walker Johnson, Gary Kamen, Kevin Klement, Mark Leckie, John Lenzi, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Ernest May, Dori McCracken, W. Brian O'Connor, Jimmy Cheung

Minutes:

There was a correction on the minutes of May 15, 2009. Under 'New Membership' the first sentence should read: "Leaving the Council at the end of this semester will be Randall Knoper".
The minutes were PASSED by the Council.

Welcome:

Ernie May convened the first Council meeting of 2009-2010 in his role as Secretary of the Faculty Senate, and in the absence of a current Council Chair. The Council welcomed new members Genevieve Chandler, Claire Hamilton, W. Brian O'Connor, and student representative Jimmy Cheung.

Nominees:

Ernie May nominated Maurianne Adams and W. Brian O'Connor as co-chairs of the General Education Council. There were no additional nominees. The Council approved the co-chair nominees unanimously.

Update on GenEd Revisions:

Ernie May gave a brief recap of the September 17th Faculty Senate meeting and reported that the Senate's overall reception of the GenEd Revisions was highly favorable.

GERICO and Council Work-load

The Council discussed several issues concerning the Faculty Senate report on GERICO. It was stated that the fourth credit proposal must be ready in its on-line format by the 28th of September. Ernie May emphasized that the setting of guidelines is to be done by this Council only. Stephanie Chapko asked that for the final draft, the Council take into consideration the 3rd year transfers for integrative experiences as well. Maurianne Adams asked that the Council provide a reassessment at its October meeting on the course proposals that have and still need to come in. This will be done as a way to measure the regularly expected work load of the General Education Council, along with the additional high volume of fourth credit proposals anticipated to be submitted. Gary Kamen suggested that we examine how other campuses have transitioned into the 4th credit increase, and other members of the Council confirmed that Martha Stassen has a list of other colleges who have and are making the transition. John Cunningham's office will provide modest stipends to assist faculty with the development of credit increase proposals only. However, this assistance will not be used as resources to teach the course – such support will need to come from the Dean's/Dept's. Initial 4th credit proposals will be due on October 15th, 2009. Mark Leckie asked if there was a way to ensure that the 4th credit proposals reflect the substantial work load increase that deems it worthy of the additional credit, such as a discussion or lab section, rather than an extra term paper. Gary Kamen affirmed that for the past 20 years, his department has conducted 'virtual' labs as the additional work load needed for their four credit courses. He said this has been done with great success for their students, as there have been up to 10 discussion sections, while using only a minimal number of TA's, such as 2-3, and adding undergraduate teaching assistants.

Discussion turned to the topic of the Integrative Seminars. There was some discussion whether a subgroup should take up this issue. Maurianne Adams asked how the Council can get a list of 499 capstone courses and

whether these capstone courses are possible models for the Integrative Seminar. The October meeting will be devoted to discussion of the Integrative Seminars. It was noted that the Integrative Seminar will provide not only savings, but increased expenditures as well. It will also produce better learning results for students. The Council will also discuss logistical issues concerning who offers Integrative Seminars for students -- individual departments for their majors, or the possibility of other units offering Integrative Seminars. There was some discussion of the possibility of linking Junior Year Writing courses with Integrative Seminars as 6-credit units. Anne Herrington asked that for the October 16th meeting, the GenEd Council members be given copies of the GETF Report (with its section on Integrative Seminars), and any materials that Martha Stassen can provide of model seminars on this campus or elsewhere.

Q-Reviews:

The list of recently received Q-Reviews was reviewed and it was noted that they would be distributed to the appropriate subcommittees. Maurianne Adams will check with Randall Knoper the status of the Q-reviews left unfinished at the May 2009 meeting.

Other Business:

The subcommittee chairs were asked to confirm the memberships within their subcommittees with Anne Benz.

Next Meeting: Friday, October 16, 2009 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.