

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, November 17, 2006

Attendance:

Mokhtar Atallah, Gail Cruise, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, Randall Knoper, Mark Leckie, Bruce Baird, Tara Lindros, Stephanie Chapko, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Kevin Klement, Lisa Dush, Richard Yuretich, Laura Doyle, Judy Goodenough, Alexandrina Deschamps, Robert Faulkner

Minutes:

The minutes of October 20, 2006 were passed by the Council.

Online Learning:

Guests Lisa Dush and Richard Yuretich gave an in-depth presentation on the structure and development of an online course. Several points were made concerning the advantages and disadvantages. First, it was noted that, despite popular belief, the instructor must indeed give much preparation in setting up the online course; detail and thoroughness is needed as much as, if not more, than that of “face to face.” Also, not only is the risk for “computer chaos” more probable, but there is less privacy due to the fact that students can see each other’s papers. However, with regards to the primary concerns of the Council, namely, the quality of writing, critical thinking and problem solving, there were some positive points. Lisa stated that in her experience teaching online, there is a lot of writing required from the students, from back and forth dialogue between the student, instructor and fellow students, to homework assignments, exams, quizzes and papers. In fact, the quantity and quality of discussion, critical thinking and problem solving are richer with online than face to face, and the normally shy students have participated more readily due to the eliminated requirement for public speaking. Also, there is an increase in peer to peer learning. Both Richard and Lisa agree that the pros to online learning outweigh the cons. A disadvantage for the instructor is that it is more time consuming to grade/edit/correct online papers than paper copies. One alternative to the privacy issue is an “assignment drop box,” which would allow only the instructor to view the paper. Richard noted that he was able to identify students well by their writing style, and for this reason, stressed that it is important to keep the online class small, preferably 15-20 students. He said that preparing a course for online learning is “labor intensive” but can be “cloned” once set up, then, others can teach the class. As far as general education requirements, they can be used for any delivery mode (online or face to face). In fact, they can even be different for each, however they must be stated within the gened specifications.

Voting:

CLASSICS 102: Roman Civilization (HS)	PASSED
CLASSICS 202: The Age of Augustus (AT)	PASSED
JUDAIC 343: American Jewish Diversity (HSG)	PASSED

Diversity Grants:

The beginning draft is being prepared by Randall K. He noted that the Provost wishes to see a progress report of last year’s winners before the next award cycle. However, it was suggested by Mokhtar A. that an evaluation of the proposals is more realistic, since a progress report is usually compiled after the first full year. Randall said he would consult with the deputy provost about progress reports and the next round of grants and would

report back to the council. He also announced that Provost Seymour will be our guest at the next meeting in order to discuss diversity, grants and gened.

Next Meeting: Friday December 15, 2006 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.