

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, February 20, 2009

Attendance:

Maurianne Adams, Bruce Baird, Stephanie Chapko, John Cunningham, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, David Fleming, Judy Goodenough, Dan Gordon, Anne Herrington, Amanda Walker Johnson, Kevin Klement, Randall Knoper, John Lenzi, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Dori McCracken, Jimmy Cheung, Patrick Kenney, Razvan Sibii, Harold Turner.

Minutes:

The minutes of November 21, 2008 were PASSED by the Council.

Reorganization

The Council had a lengthy discussion regarding responding to the Chancellor's reorganization proposal. It was noted that resources are a major issue when it comes to Gened. There is no extra money for those who have great teaching loads, and the biggest loads have the least resources for creating a margin of excellence. This is a problem. There is a clear difference in the level of support between Gened and that of different organizations and colleges on campus. The reorganization will only intensify the lack of support. Maurianne Adams asked if the Chancellor understands that whereas other programs have budgets, there is no such budget for Gened; thus, future college reductions will cut the only Gened funding there is. The Council agreed to submit their comments/responses to Randall Knoper so that he can compile them into a statement that can be sent immediately to the Undergraduate Education Council and that can become part of the Faculty Senate response to the proposed reorganization.

General Education Task Force:

The Council agreed to work on revising the course approval forms before the end of the semester. The Council also agreed to consider preparing separate forms for the Quinquennial Reviews. Randall also suggested that possibly the revisions could be combined with the Gened goals/info from the task force in order to create one revision package. The subcommittees will meet before the next meeting regarding this.

Website:

Randall announced that the Gened website should be in operation by April. Also, the Center for Educational Software and Design has been given the go-ahead to develop a program and website that would enable online course proposals, quinquennial reviews, and data collection about General Education.

Discussion with Deputy Provost:

John Cunningham discussed possible redesign of General Education. The general thrust of the proposal he presented to the General Education Task Force, he explained, would change Gened courses from three credits to four, thereby reducing the number of courses a student would take, and raising the quality of the existing courses. A capstone course would also be added. He noted that this would not make General Education less expensive, but it could still be a way of reorganizing the program amidst the expected budget cuts.

Voting:

History 375, "U.S. Constitutional History II" (HS)

PASSED

Sports Management 294B, "History of Baseball in America" (HS)

PASSED

Honors 292L and CompLit 335 & 336 needed more clarification, critical thinking, and more defined syllabi content. Randall will contact the instructors regarding these.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 13, 2009 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.