

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, April 17, 2009

Attendance:

Maurianne Adams, Bruce Baird, Alexandrina Deschamps, Ginger Etinde, Judy Goodenough, Anne Herrington, Patrick Kenney, Kevin Klement, Mark Leckie, John Lenzi, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Dori McCracken, Jimmy Cheung, Amanda Walker-Johnson

Minutes:

The minutes of March 13th 2009 were PASSED by the Council.

Course Approval Forms & Rubrics:

The Council had an in-depth discussion regarding changes./additions to approval forms and rubrics.

Form F

Mark Leckie suggested that there should be indication on the generic approval form that it corresponds to form 'F'. In addition, a place for the on-line status (whether mixed or entirely on-line), the name and designation of the course should be provided on the generic form. Mark also suggested that perhaps the scoring rubric be placed on the Faculty Senate website, with notification of "*for Gened use only*" on the scoring rubric. He also suggested that learning goals and outcomes should be stated on the syllabus. Anne Herrington stated that discussion of course content is of primary importance, and as a result, she suggested the sentence "*Please list/discuss course goals and learning objectives and how it is linked to Gened,*" be placed on form 'F', (Sect. I), under "Course Description." Other amendments are as follows:

Item 4c – amended to "*a list of requirements and student readings*"

Item 4d – amended to "*...of texts or readings developed for the course if applicable*"

Item 4e – remove this item.

Form G

Item 3B - Anne Herrington proposed that item 3b, which lists a minimum of ten pages for the writing requirement, be amended to read "*...writing requirement is at minimum ten pages and serves as the learning objective of the course.*"

Item 4B – Kevin Klement stated that due to the legislation that says an AL/AT designation should not be geared toward learning a skill, 4b should be amended to read "*...please explain the balance between course theories and ideas with practice and application.*" The Council concluded that having both 4a and b are questionable; they would like it to read the above amendment only, however, they need it be first supported by the legislation. There was no finalization on this portion.

Item 5 – This only refers to an English-taught course. Because of this, an amendment has been made to read as follows: "*If the language of instruction and discussion is other than English, the required level of language competency must be specified.*"

Form H

Item 3 – the issue of having essay exams satisfy the writing requirement will be a topic for the Council to discuss during the next academic year.

Item 4 – The sentence will be amended to read "*How will this course help students understand their present and anticipate their future?*"

Form J

Add an additional point that asks "*How does this course assist students in grasping the variations among human cultures in order to evaluate viewing their own social milieu as both a natural and fundamental right?*"

Form K

The rubric is fine. Last paragraph amended to “...and an understanding of prospects and modes”.

Item 3 – first sentence has been amended to “...scientific method – the use of observation and experiment to develop hypothesis and verify fundamental theories.”

Form LG

There were two suggested amendments for the third point in the first paragraph which states “to encourage pluralistic perspectives.” Mark Leckie proposed saying “to encourage pluralistic perspectives by considering our culture in relation to other cultures.” Anne Herrington also proposed saying “to encourage pluralistic perspectives in order to recognize our culture in relation to other cultures.” Further amendments included removing the long parenthesis at the end of the first paragraph and re-wording the sentence immediately before it as “They may focus on the differential life experiences of those whose national, geographic or economic status places them out of the mainstream of Western industrial societies.”

Form LU

The amendments are similar as that of form LG; the last sentence in parenthesis removed, and the next to last sentence to read as “They may focus on the differential life experiences of those whose national, geographic or economic status places them out of the mainstream of Western industrial societies.” The same suggested amendments apply for the first sentence concerning pluralistic perspectives as it does for ‘LG’.

Form M

This does not fir ‘R2’ for rubric.

Voting:

Honors 292R, “The Multiple and Interdisciplinary Significances of Cities and Towns: Boston” (IU) PASSED
(question regarding instruction)

Service Learning 293, “Engaging with the Community...” (IU) PASSED
(clarification needed; must use ‘Y’ if course is to be two semester; history needs to be integrated; how course satisfies the I&U designation)

Physics 118, “Energy and Society” (PS) PASSED

Resource Economics 162, “The Consumer in Our Society (SB) PASSED

Plant, Soil and Insect Science 190C, “Cultural Entomology”, needs to provide a syllabus and information defining cultural diversity within the course. Also, basic course information needs to be provided.

Scandinavian Studies 397V, “Viking Revival” needs to provide a syllabus and grading criteria.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor’s Board Room, 370 Whitmore.