

Minutes

General Education Council
Friday, November 21, 2008

Attendance:

Maurianne Adams, Cindy Boissonneault, Stephanie Chapko, Jake Clemen, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, David Fleming, Judy Goodenough, Dan Gordon, Gary Kamen, Kevin Klement, Randall Knoper, Alan Lutenecker, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Laura Henderson

Minutes:

A correction was made to the minutes. The first sentence under the Mass Transfer heading should be eliminated and the second sentence should begin with:

“It was decided that two diversity courses (U or G)...”

The minutes of October 17, 2008 were passed by the Council.

Course Evaluations:

Laura Henderson, from the Office of Academic Planning and Assessment, brought revisions of the course-proposal-evaluation rubrics that she has been working on, and the council discussed these. The rubric that would apply to all courses was discussed first, and the suggestion was made that in addition to a first section, whose criteria would evaluate the information about the course, and a second section, whose criteria would evaluate instruction in critical thinking, there should be a third section that would evaluate the ways student learning would be assessed. When the council turned to the scoring rubrics for evaluating specific Gen Ed designations, it became clear that the council needed first to review and revise its goals for the various designations and the statements of those goals as they appear in the course-approval forms. This is not to say that Laura’s work in revising these rubrics was for naught, but the rubrics and the goals-statements in the course-approval forms clearly needed to be brought into alignment. Council members agreed that, prior to the December meeting of the council, the subcommittees for each designation would review both the course-approval forms and the evaluation rubrics and be ready to propose revisions at the December meeting.

Junior Year Writing:

David Fleming gave a brief presentation on the Jr. Year Writing Program, based on the recent review of the program by the University Writing Committee. He noted that the program remains innovative and “of flagship quality,” an apt source of pride for the General Education program. After its institution 27 years ago, however, the program has experienced some “drift” from its initial goals and emphases—and from its initial funding—and the University needs to strengthen its commitment to Jr. Year Writing. Enrollment has also needed some attention, as there are problems of over-enrollment in courses and of classes that are too large in some departments (classes of 20 students or fewer would be ideal).

General Education Funding

The Council discussed Chancellor Holub’s remark at the Faculty Senate meeting (the day before, Thursday, November 20) that the council should be discussing the problem of delivering quality General Education in the midst of budget cuts. There was general agreement that the prospect of cuts in Gen Ed was alarming, given that there is nothing really to cut; cuts would have an impact directly on instruction, by requiring even larger lecture courses and fewer TAs. The council ultimately agreed to ask Deputy Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education John Cunningham to talk with the council about these matters at its December meeting.

Voting:

Honors 392L, "Criminal Law and Justice in the U.S." – the committee recommends the course be considered as IU and not SIU, and therefore should be resubmitted.

Sports Management 294B, "History of Baseball in America" – not enough information provided.

Next Meeting: Friday, December 19, 2008 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor's Board Room, 370 Whitmore.