Minutes
General Education Council
Friday, March 25, 2011

Attendance:
Maurianne Adams, Stephanie Chapko, Alexandrina Deschamps, Andrew Eaton, Ginger Etinde, Stuart Farber, David Fleming, Judy Goodenough, Steve Gencarella, Patricia Gubitosi, Claire Hamilton, Sarah Jenness, John Lenzi, Alan Lutenegger, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Ernie May, Dori McCracken, Evan Pleasant, Amilicar Shabazz, Reiko Sono

Minutes:
A correction was made, changing the course number for History 297J to History 260. The minutes of February 25, 2011 were PASSED as corrected by the Council.

Update on Davis Fellows:
There was no report given, as the applications are not due yet, and Martha Stassen was unable to attend today’s meeting.

CHASS – Implications for Gen Ed Program.
The Council’s emphasis was on the implications of the CHASS for General Education program and preparation of a report reflecting these concerns. The details for CHASS are to be worked out during the 2011-2012 AY. One area of concern was advising for undergraduate majors in CHASS. Another area of difficulty will be in enrollments—the campus-wide increase in enrollments are not being accommodated with an increase in course capacity or numbers of courses. This will result in crowded waiting lists for required courses by next year. A question was raised about the likelihood that the majority of GenEd courses – some 70% -- would be offered by CHASS, and how the impact of continuing instructional deficits would affect Gen Ed. The final note from members was a concern that such a large GenEd commitment within a single new college could weaken campus-wide commitments to Gen Ed.

GEC Reviewer Rotations:
Sarah thanked the Council for their patience and cooperation as the details for the transition are being worked out.

Voting:

Quinquennial Reviews:
Political Science 101, “American Politics“ PASSED
Resource Economics 121, “Hunger in Global Economics “ PASSED
Resource Economics 262, “Environmental Economics“ PASSED contingent upon Gen Ed rationale being included in syllabus

New Courses:
Classics 250, “Scientific and Medical Terminology“ Needs more work
Honors 291I, “S-International Issues “ PASSED contingent upon providing more information on grading.
AfroAm 290E, “The Slave Narrative “ Needs more work

Claire Hamilton suggested that it might prove to be more efficient by having a short version of the course syllabi kept active with the course description, with the additional detailed information attached electronically as an appendix on the syllabi.
**New GenEd System for “I” and “SI” Designation:**
Stephanie Chapko reviewed the Fall ’09 – ’10 and Spring ’10 – ’11 enrollments for courses designated “I” and “SI” to address the question, whether the transition from 3-to-4 credit GenEd courses had the unintended consequence of lower enrollments for “I” or “SI” courses. She noted that under the old system, “I’s” were considered a wild card, but now the “I” substitutes for a single Social World designation only. The question was to see whether there is a downward trend for “I” courses, since they no longer serve multiple purposes. It appears that enrollments for “I” courses have held steady, with only a few instances of lower enrollments. Alex Dechamps discussed the question, whether “I” courses experiencing low enrollment should change their designations, or whether the “I” was an important component of the GenEd program. Alan Lutenegger asked if there was a ‘trend’ in decreasing the number of ‘I’s,” due to drop in enrollments, and changing them to a “one-to-one” trade off for social world. He noted that when this is done, the designation is not as valuable, but neither is it dispensable. The Council agreed to continue tracking the enrollments for “I” and “SI” for another year.

**UWW IE Overall Dept. Plan:**
The Council reviewed the UWW proposals sent in for approval as IE’s (UWW 310, UWW 320, UWW 330 and UWW 340). Maurianne suggested allowing another week for feedback from council members, who had not had sufficient time to read the proposals and who raised a number of questions. The main questions before the Council concerned the number of Gen Ed courses that students should take before the IE, and also whether there is a preferred sequence for IE and JYW courses. Maurianne will send the four proposals back to the Council, giving a week for feedback, and then, if the courses are approved by email, send word to UWW.

**May Meeting:**
It was decided that the Council will have it’s final meeting on May 20th, 2011, rather than May 13th as originally scheduled. This final meeting will be an opportunity for the evaluation of new IE proposals submitted by this year’s Davis Fellows.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, April 29, 2011 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor’s Board Room, 370 Whitmore.