Revised Minutes
General Education Council
Friday, December 17, 2010

Attendance:
Maurianne Adams, Philippe Baillargeon, Bruce Baird, John Cunningham, Alexandrina Deschamps, Isabel Espinal, Ginger Etinde, David Fleming, Steve Gencarella, Judy Goodenough, Claire Hamilton, Sarah Jenness, Kevin Klement, Mark Leckie, John Lenzi, Alan Lutenegger, Pamela Marsh-Williams, Ernest May, Dori McCracken, Matt Ouelette, Martha Stassen, Razvan Sibii

Minutes:
The minutes of November 19, 2010 were PASSED by the Council.

Update on GERICO Approvals:
Claire shared with the Council that there are 23 new 3-to-4 credit conversion proposals; 10 of which are approved by the Provost, 2 are awaiting initial review and several more are awaiting a second review. There has been a total of approximately 250 proposal in all, the bulk of which has been completed, and all of which went through the expedited conversion process due to the combining of Councils for GERICO. Claire has just about completed her service on course approvals for GERICO – a few more proposals are coming in to catch the final January 2011 due date.

There was some discussion whether or not GERICO should be extended for the purposes of expediting more 3-to-4 credit conversions. Ernie said he would look at the GERICO legislation to confirm the sundown date.

Update on Davis Fellows:
Martha shared with the Council that the meetings with the Davis Fellows are going remarkably well. The davis fellows were pleased that their feedback had resulted in at least one change to the 3rd IE criterion.

Update on Faculty Senate Panel
Maurianne stated that the December 14th Faculty Senate meeting regarding IE was a great collaborative accomplishment. The Chancellor’s remarks were very supportive. The Council approved the draft “IE Approval Process” in the draft Faculty Senate legislation, that “Approval of IE course will be managed by the GEC or a specially designated joint subcommittee with AMC

Writing Requirement and Instructor’s Feedback for Social World courses:
Steve Gencarella and Dave Fleming reported back to the Council concerning the GEC’s unequal treatment of the Social World writing requirement in courses presented by different schools or departments. Steve Gencarella asked how this should be addressed. A suggestion of changing the language to say that the writing requirement for SB is impossible, or possibly, change how QQ’s and course reviews are done. Another suggestion was made to keep the language as is, although it was unclear whether to adhere to a tougher writing standard across the board for all social world courses. Isabel suggested that a webpage be created with examples of social world writing requirements in AL, AT and SB designations.

As a measure for the time being, the Council agreed not to change the writing requirement language (keep the requirement as “should”) and continue to focus our attention on how Schools & departments with Social World courses fulfill this requirement, including faculty response to student writing. GEC will use Spring submissions to obtain the better information on writing, and reexamine the issue at the end of spring or beginning of fall. The Council will followup with examples of writing assignments on the Webpate.
GEC Procedure for Course Review (QQ & New courses):
Maurianne suggested an ‘alphabetical rotation’ would be more effective in reviewing new proposals that are submitted, and assure greater equity in review-load, since proposals (especially QQ’s) come to the GEC in departmental “batches.” In addition, the proposals should stand scrutiny from “generalists” rather than disciplinary “specialists.”

Designation Forms:
Sarah Jenness reviewed the on-line designation forms and noted minor changes as suggested by Council members. She noted that form ‘LO’ replaces ‘form F’, provides room for critical thinking and is a way of getting at generic objectives. It also provides space for syllabi. Maurianne reassured Council members that all aspects of the previous submission processes are incorporated into the new system, which also (through the form LO) enables us to focus on the 2009 Learning Objectives as well as the earlier more generic 1985 objectives. The Council’s discussion returned to the issue of the writing requirement in all Social World course and clarified the understanding the 10 page suggestion meant that those 10 pages are generally considered cumulative across several assignments in the semester, typically but not necessarily through a combination of short papers and essay exams. Ernie May urged to keep this requirement at 10 pages, as lessening it will dilute the quality of the students’ learning experience.

Approvals:
EDUC 291A Approved
NATSCI 190I Approved (John Cunningham and Mark Leckie will check with instructor to confirm ‘I’ designation)

Maurianne noted that during Spring 2011, the Council will evaluate whether ‘I’ and ‘SI’ designations should be combined into one designation, or remain as two separate designations.

Funding Reports:
John Cunningham stated that the Provost’s Office is funding the IE requirements to departments on the basis of their IE needs. This averages out to about $300 per student. Beyond this, it would need to be determined how much additional costs would be needed for departments of highest priority to teach IE’s, then of 2nd highest priority. John noted that most department must at the very least conduct a new 1 credit seminar in order to qualify as fundable.

UWW IE Option:
UWW proposed an IE experimental course – UWW394 – which would be in place for spring and summer 2011 only, to serve handful of UWW “seniors” needing the IE in the coming year. The Council asked for further information on the proposal that “peer, as well as instructor, feedback will be integral to the learning process” since it is not clear how such peer feedback will involve “a shared learning experience for applying their prior learning to new situations, challenging questions, and real-world application.” Maurianne will pass this question along to UWW.

Question from Julian Tyson re JYW/IE Relationship:
The Council agreed that the IE could not inhabit the same upper-division 3 GenEd credits as the JYW course. Together (in whatever form) they would need to account for 6 upper-division GenEd credits.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 28, 2011 at 2:30 PM, in the Chancellor’s Board Room, 370 Whitmore.