

MINUTES

General Education Council,
3:30 April 5, 2012, Grove Hall 201

- I. Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Hamblin at 3:31 pm in GH 201 (members from both the 2011-12 and 2012-12 years were present with the new term beginning after the next year's officers' election). Attendance at the meeting included: L. Cella, J. Edwards, D. Godshalk, M. Spicka, W. Kingsley, A. Morana, P. Peet, B. Finucane, S. Drzyzga, A. Feeney, C. Botteron, C. Bertram, A. Seibert, E. Nollenberger, A. Predecki, D. Girard, J. Hamblin, W. Crawley, A. Cresswell, J. Catanio, R. Setaputra, S. Morrisette, L. Patterson, S. Paulson, S. Benbow, M. Paxton, K. Johnson, S. Harrow, J. Mike, J. Kooti, and K. Moll.
- II. Dr. Nollenberger motioned, seconded by Dr. Morrisette, to approve the March 1, 2012 minutes, all were in favor and it passed unanimously.
- III. Report from UCC-Dr. Botteron discussed editorial corrections to the UCC guidelines document discussed at the last UCC meeting. The change in wording is to ensure consistency in the language and procedures for new course proposals and ensure that GEC first approves new courses. Many changes revolved around consistency in submission of new course proposals as the campus has evolved from paper mailings to uploading via a website, while still maintaining the sponsor's responsibility for ensuring the course's proper review. Other wording changes revolved around program curriculum and distance education courses. The changes to the document were approved by UCC, however, the language was not finalized, and thus if anyone wanted to make suggestions, Dr. Botteron was willing to bring GEC's feedback to UCC. There was no discussion.
- IV. Report from Standing Committees
 - a. Assessment-Dr. Girard reported no major updates as the committee did not meet, but they are trying to coordinate with different departments to plan for testing.
 - b. Budget-Dr. Morrisette reported the committee had not met this past month but they did handle, via email, one proposal. The status of that proposal was unknown.
 - c. Program-Dr. Predecki reported that the committee met on Friday, March 30 to discuss the UCC proposal from the history department which will be discussed later at this meeting.
- V. Additional Committees Reports
 - a. Ad-Hoc Entry-Year Experience Committee -Dr. Kingsley reported that after all the brainstorming during the retreat the sub-committee investigated other universities interests in the entry-level experience and found the results of numerous surveys on the topic. One suggestion was to invest in smaller classes, particularly a required course such as History I, targeting set skills, aiming for better retention rates, bonding with students, and building advisory relationships. Dr. Harrow reminded the committee that at the retreat they had discussed building a new course, as to not infringe and burden one department. In developing a new course that could be taught by multiple departments the burden and pleasures could be distributed campus-wide.

- b. Ad-Hoc Capstone Committee- Dr. Bertram reported they were investigating departments on campus with capstones in both minor and major courses and internships, and the committee wanted to organize a focus group to come up with a best practices documents. Dean Mike wanted to pose the question to the group to consider internships and their learning experience and whether an internship is truly a capstone experience. The committee should consider the learning objectives and the overall experience in order to answer that question.

VI. New Business

- a. UCC #11-104 and #11-105: History 105 and 106. Dr. Steve Burg discussed how as a department this past year, partly in response to the five year program review, historians really looked at the descriptions of the two courses and found an inaccurate reflection of their classes. The current general education description for the two history courses was generated in 1983 and has not been updated. It took a very linear approach to history, starting in the past and getting to the end, whereas most faculty today teach about themes. Dr. Burg wanted to stress how unique these courses are because almost all students take History I their first semester and History II their second semester on campus and thus the faculty members try to embed skills, assist with adjustment to college, and tutor and mentor students. Dr. Drzyzga mentioned the overlap with geography. Dr. Burg reported that the historians were not about to take over teaching geography courses, but the environment has such profound effects on history that it is completely embedded in history and society, and historians strongly support students taking more geography courses. In fact, these two courses serve the university at large, and thus they are trying to bring in other disciplines such as archeology, music, arts and literature. Dr. Finucane encouraged them to emphasize economics as much as possible and encourage the overlap between departments. The program committee had met to discuss the two proposals and made a motion to approve the changes of the title and description but also recommends the increase communication with the library, writing center, and others on campus to improve general education and keep open discussions to become a cohesive campus. All were in favor of the motion, it was approved and the changes will go to UCC.
- b. Status of Five-year Review-Dr. Hamblin, Dr. Predecki, Dr. Moll, Dr. Godshalk , and Dr. Crowley drafted a funding proposal to the Provost for summer work on the five-year review.
- c. Dr. Cella wanted to increase dialogue about the Fluency in Writing Course, by bringing a book that approximately 40% of the faculty are currently using. The book establishes templates to develop arguments, such as “critics say this, but I say this.” By knowing what the students are learning, faculty in other departments should be able to use it in their courses. Dr. Botteron mentioned how she had independently found this book and uses it successfully. Dr. Hamblin wanted to stress after many of the day’s discussions how important communication is across the campus and GEC can play a strong roll to help improve it.
- d. Dr. Ricardo was invited to represent AAAT- and present his academic assessment team. Currently about 98% of programs are represented on campus and their participation is voluntary. AAAT uses D2L to distribute goals, agendas, and other information pertaining to assessment. AAAT wants to collaborate and not duplicate efforts on campus, so please use

them as consultants. They are passionate about assessment and want to help. They can also be used as a neutral or non-biased resource. They have organized a conference, along with CFEST for next October which will focus on scholarship of teaching and learning assessment. Most notably, they are excited that it will be the first conference where students can present on their learning, assessments, and experiences.

VII. Election of Officers for 2012-13

- a. At this point in the meeting the members serving the 2011-2012 year were excused, and the out-going APSCUF rep, Dr. Harrow, conducted elections for 2012-2013 officers.
- b. Faculty Co-Chair-Dr. Hamblin accepted the nomination by Dr. Drzyzga, seconded by Dr. Cella, for re-election. Dr. Moll moved to vote, seconded by Dr. Bertram, all were in favor, and Dr. Hamblin was congratulated.
- c. Secretary-Dr. Hamblin, seconded by Dr. Morana, nominated Dr. Feeney, who accepted. All were in favor.
- d. UCC Representative-Dr. Botteron nominated, seconded by Dr. Morrisette, Dr. Paulson who accepted. All were in favor. During the fall, Dr. Paulson will be on sabbatical, and Dr. Moll volunteered to fill in. Dr. Drzyzga motioned, and Dr. Cella seconded, all were in favor. Dr. Harrow thanked Dr. Hamblin for his year of well-organized service.

VIII. Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Harrow, seconded by Dr. Nollenberger, and passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison E. Feeney