

# **GENERAL EDUCATION COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes**

March 2, 2010

### **I. Call to order**

Conrad Shumaker called to order the regular meeting of the General Education Council at 1:42 PM on March 2, 2010, in the Director's Conference Room on the second floor of the library.

### **II. Attendees**

The following persons were present:

Ed Powers

Ellen Stengel

Stephen Feldman

Renee Le Beau-Ford

Sally Roden

Austin Hall, SGA Rep.

Shay Clark SGA Rep.

Roger Pauly

William Friedman

Stephanie Vanderslice

Lori Isom

Kim Eskola

Jim Deitrick

Conrad Shumaker

- Visitors

Carl Olds

Carey Voss

Scott Payne, Chair, Department of Writing

- The absentees:

Steve Ward

Charles Watson

Kathy French

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes from the December 1, 2009 meeting were approved as amended by Conrad Shumaker . The addenda were that

(1) A motion to require an exam in alternate years failed

- (2) The idea that we should develop an intensive writing (across the curriculum ) course before requiring a third writing course was not yet developed into a concrete proposal.

The minutes of the preceding meeting on February 1, 2010, were approved as submitted.

#### 1. **Open issues**

The Council agreed to take the recent Department of Writing proposal off the able to permit further discussion.

The discussion included these points;

- 1) Scheduling problems would arise if the semester for Writing 1320 were changed.
- 2) It would be difficult to keep track of who took the course.
- 3) Five members of the council of Deans replied unfavorably to changing the time when the course would be offered, namely, the first semester of the sophomore year.
- 4) Dr. Payne remarked that
  - a. The Deans' decision was not fully informed.
  - b. The status quo is not working.
  - c. The students' maturity is not the issue, it is really about the fact that writing is a complex skill.
  - d. The second composition class is rightfully energized by working with sources, critical thinking, and engagement with the articles [used by the students].

Jim Deitrick called for a vote on the question. Conrad Shumaker pointed out that we would not be voting on the exact proposal but on its gist, since the department would be making minor revisions in due time. The motion was approved with a vote of 7 in favor and 4 opposed.

#### IV. **New business**

Conrad Shumaker suggested a revision to the Bulletin making explicit the role of writing in the General Education Program.

Sally Roden mentioned that there is a serious problem concerning some students' exemption from Writing 1310 through AP credit and suggested polling the entire

faculty on the matter. Ellen Stengel said that the Writing Department was considering changing the credit given for AP scores. No action was taken on this suggestion.

Ed Powers added that writing is foundational, hence different.

Conrad Shumaker said we should move to the next proposal concerning Asian Literature in a Global context. A motion to accept the proposal was tabled.

Jim Deitrick said that another issue has to be addressed first: rationalizing the categories of the General Education Program; because, as it now stands, diversification in course perspective is discouraged.

Roger Pauly distributed a proposal for later discussion and action, after pointing out that recategorizing courses would produce major disruptions in staffing.

Times for various extra meetings were announced: one with the HLC, another meeting of the whole General Education Council, and our own Subcommittee on Assessment.

## V. Adjournment

Dr. Shumaker adjourned the meeting at **2:37 PM**.

Minutes submitted by: William H. Friedman