

General Education Council Minutes

September 6, 2011

Members Present: Conrad Shumaker (Chair), Ed Powers (SOC), Lori Isom (CHEM), Kondwani Phwandaphwanda (MUS), Jim Deitrick (PHIL), Mary Beth Sullivan (PSCI), Carl Olds (FILM), Charles Watson (MATH), Stephanie Vanderslice (WRTG), Jeff Allender (GEOG), Joe McGarrity (EFIRM), Destiny Davis (SGA), Renee Lebeau-Ford (Ex-officio, LIB)

Members Absent: Kim Eskola (KPED), Rene Crow (ECSE)

Recognition of new GEC members: Jim Deitrick, Mary Beth Sullivan, Carl Olds, Jeff Allender, Joe McGarrity, Desiny Davis.

AGENDA for Sept. 6 Meeting:

1. Election of a secretary
2. Approval of minutes of May meeting
3. Revised Proposal for LING 1310
4. Honors College Representation on the GEC
5. Organization of Subcommittees
 - a. Assessment
 - b. Goals and Objectives
6. Name Change and Definition for General Education (please vote by Friday on whether you think we should pursue this now)

1. Election of a Secretary: Carl Olds was selected and approved by acclamation

2. Approval of minutes from May meeting: Minutes were approved, with the correction of the LING 1310 instead of WRTG 1310.

3. Revised Proposal for LING 1310:

Council heard from Dr. Tim Thornes, Assistant Professor of Writing and Linguistics, about the proposed course LING 1310 (Language, Culture, and Society). Thornes answered questions about

- the differences between the Linguistics course and existing Gen Ed Anthropology course (subject matters are different, LING course is language-based rather than behavior-based)
- potential demand for the course (the freshman designation and past experience will drive demand)
- whether the course should fit into the World Cultural Traditions designation (no, because the research project is done within the students' own culture)
- whether the students will be doing real social science (yes)
- whether this course should be a Gen Ed course or an upper division LING course (no, this class is geared toward non-major/minor freshman students)
- Thornes was excused for decision

Motion to table discussion (Powers, McGarrity 2nd) until Gen Ed council goals are more specifically defined. Shumaker noted that we must serve the program that currently exists. Motion fails 7-2.

Council raised questions about hypotheses the LING course might test (LING is an established science with major/minor emphases established on campus, course might deal with attitudes toward non-standard dialects, function of English-only legislation, language and gender, how language diversity happens)

Motion to add course to Gen Ed Curriculum—7 for, 4 opposed, 1 abstention (**MOTION APPROVED**)

4. Honors College Representation on the GEC

Building on discussion last year about Honors teaching 4 Gen Ed courses, yet having no representation on GEC.

Dr. Rick Scott, Director of Honors College, was present to answer questions. Dr. Scott asked the GEC to consider a permanent voting representative because Honors has taught 4 Gen Ed courses since 1982-83, they have built and revised these courses with the Gen Ed guidelines, and it is important for Honors to be involved in the current discussion about the goals of the GEC.

Council discussed a drafted proposal for Honors College representation which reads as follows:

“The Honors College shall elect a representative to serve a three-year term as a College Representative on the General Education Council under the following guidelines:

- *Those eligible to serve shall be tenure-track or tenured faculty members who have taught at least one of the Honors courses that count toward general education requirements (HONC 1310, 1320, 2310, and 2320) in the last two years OR have taught at least one Honors course at any level and one general education course offered by another college in the last two years.*
- *Those eligible to vote shall meet the same criteria as those eligible to serve, except that they shall not have to be tenure-track or tenured.”*

Council discussion was centered around the following issues:

- small and selective population that Honors serves
- whether a proposed GEC member would be open to all faculty who teach Honors courses or whether it would need to come from the main Honors faculty
- whether this voice would be limited to an ex-officio/non-voting member or a full voting member

MEETING WAS CALLED FOR TIME WITH THE HONORS QUESTION UNDECIDED (TO BE PICKED UP AT THE NEXT MEETING)

5. Organization of Subcommittees

New Members were added to Committees:

- Olds to Goals/Objectives committee
- McGarrity, Allender, Sullivan to Assessments committee

Meeting was adjourned - Next Meeting will be October 6