

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2008
Old Main 128**

Members Present: Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Mary Koski, Emil Kramer, Nancy Loitz, Mariano Magalhães, Joe McDowell, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Fred Whiteside

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

I MINUTES

It was noted that the minutes are not funny.

Motion-Schussheim-Anderson, **Second**-Magalhães **APPROVED**

“To approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008 General Education Committee meeting as presented.”

II NEW BUSINESS

Learning Community Petition for Private Study Update

AS&D did not agree with our recommendation for the private study petition. The student chose to enroll in a Learning Community this fall and is taking a major course as private study.

Gen Ed Representative for Senior Inquiry Development Committee

Kristin Douglas requested a Gen Ed replacement for her on the SIDC at least until December. She informed the group that there is very little input needed from the Gen Ed representative in these committee meetings. This led the committee to question the need for a Gen Ed representative on this committee. Nancy will discuss this with Bob Haak and put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Assessment

Allen Bertsche reported on the first meeting of the Assessment Committee. The group is trying to determine how to develop a model for assessing various components of general education. They note that doing so is difficult since courses in each of the Learning Perspectives, for example, come from departments across all disciplines. There is no one measure that could be used effectively across the board. Nancy reminded the committee that Ellen Hay led a subcommittee of General Education in an assessment of PS two years ago. The result of that review demonstrated that courses in that LP are all over the map in terms of design and content. The subcommittee recommended at that at the very least all syllabi for courses in an LP category contain the goals set out by GEWG regarding that requirement. Allen said we might want to send a representative from the Gen Ed Committee to join the Assessment Committee discussions after they have a few more meetings.

G and D Suffixes

After having the week to review the G and D comparisons, the committee still found it difficult to make clear and consistent distinctions for the G and D suffixes. It was suggested that the General Education committee invite Adam Kaul to a future meeting, as he deals with these kinds of cultural distinctions all the time. Nancy will send Adam the spreadsheet that Fred Whiteside worked up.

Learning Communities

The committee discussed the Learning Community issue again. Nancy informed them that she will confirm with Emily Lardner that we will hold the intensive LC workshop on Oct. 4 before promoting it to faculty. From the current senior class, 190 have not yet completed their Learning Community, and there are only 120 seats in winter and spring terms; however, some will complete their requirement during foreign terms. Different suggestions were made to increase the number of Learning Communities. One worth investigating is giving LC credit to students who complete the Honors programs all the way through the capstone experience. The committee would like to pursue this issue further. Nancy will ask Liesl to see how many students this would affect, and return to the Gen Ed Committee with her results.

III ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM. And then Nancy dropped the entire bowl of salsa onto the floor of the meeting room. Oops.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski