

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2008
Old Main 128**

Members Present: Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Randall Hall, Mary Koski, Emil Kramer, Nancy Loitz, Mariano Magalhães, Joe McDowell, Aaron Schroeder, Steve Warren, Fred Whiteside

Guests Present: Adam Kaul, Chris Whitt

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

I MINUTES

Motion-Douglas, Second- Magalhães APPROVED

“To approve the minutes of the September 10, 2008 General Education Committee meeting as amended.”

Motion-Earle, Second-Douglas APPROVED

“To approve the minutes of the September 24, 2008 General Education Committee meeting as amended.”

II OLD BUSINESS

A. G and D Suffix Critique

Adam Kaul was invited to the meeting to comment on the G and D suffix definitions after reviewing them and all courses with these suffixes. He provided a handout summarizing his comments, as did Carrie Hough. Although Adam did not know how to solve the problem associated with the G and D ambiguity, he did acknowledge that they do need to be more clearly defined. He said the division between the two suffixes seems to be determined by the territorial borders of the U.S., or at best North America. But this in and of itself seems problematic in the modern, globalized world. The goal seems to be to get beyond basic us/them, center/periphery distinctions, but doesn't division between G&D perhaps reinscribe those divisions? Chris Whitt also addressed the committee with his thoughts. He commented only on the D suffix and disagrees with language that makes the diverse populations sound so different...the language needs to be more subtle. He also said that “celebrating” diversity, rather than “creating” diversity is something to think about in this process. After considerable discussion a motion was made:

Motion-McDowell, Second-Whiteside APPROVED

“To form a subcommittee of Gen Ed that will edit the language of the current G and D suffix definitions, using the comments from Adam Kaul, Carrie Hough and Chris Whitt, and to propose this new language and/or guidelines for G and D suffixes to the faculty via a faculty forum.”

Subcommittee members will be Joe McDowell, Mariano Magalhães, and Anne Earel.

B. LSFY Approvals

After Gen Ed's last meeting, Jeff Abernathy suggested presenting to EPC the LS course conversions that were not passed at Gen Ed to get EPC's approval before Gen Ed's approval.

EPC approved all three proposals which are now before Gen Ed for approval today, and if approved will go to faculty senate this week.

Committee members made mention that minimalist syllabi were difficult to vote approval on; they don't feel like they are ensuring assignments achieve the objectives of the course, and that even though senior faculty may be presenting these documents, and the courses have been taught before, it puts them in an uncomfortable place when it comes to vote.

Motion-Warren, Second-Kramer APPROVED Y=9 N=1 (Schroeder)

“To approve the following LSFY 102 course conversions:

From LS 111: From Achilles to Aristotle (Bonzon)

From LS 111: From Manic to Manicured (Kalas)

**From LS 112: From Shakespeare to Virginia Woolf (Youngberg)
as presented.”**

C. Gen Ed Replacement for SIDC Update

Bob Haak, chair of the Senior Inquiry Development Committee, clarified with Nancy Loitz that the Gen Ed representative assigned to SIDC committee need not attend meetings unless there is a matter on the agenda that specifically has a need for Gen Ed representation. This should sufficiently relieve Kristin Douglas's burden of attending all the meetings; therefore a replacement for her on this committee is no longer needed.

III NEW BUSINESS

A. Prerequisite Requirements for LSFY 102 and 103 Discussion

Students currently do not have to pass LS 101 before they move on to LS 102; likewise with LS 103. Should a prerequisite to pass LS 101, 102 and 103 be required? Nancy said the changing demographics in applicants will likely mean there will be more underprepared students which potentially means more course failures. It was felt that students should not take both 101 and 102 at the same time, although some felt this might be a possibility. The committee did not come up with a decision regarding this issue and it was suggested that Nancy bring the issue up at the next Academic Affairs Committee meeting and also Nancy, Meg, Jeff, Mariano will to discuss this with the LS Coordinators. If a decision is made to require the prerequisites, this item will need to be passed by EPC and the full faculty.

B. Learning Community Workshop

A reminder of Saturday's Learning Community Workshop was announced. The learning community funding proposal remains unresolved, and the Evergreen committee proposal will need to be passed by the faculty before implementation. Jeff Abernathy plans take this to senate and divisions for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Koski