

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2011

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

Members Present: Amanda Beveroth, Stefanie Bluemle, Lendol Calder, Mike Egan, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Ellen Hay, Carrie Hough, Virginia Johnson, Anna Knepler

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Egan, Second-Hough

“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of January 12, 2011.”

MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

A. Learning Community Proposal: Individual Income Tax Learning Community

Motion-Egan, Second-Gillette

“To approve for a learning community: Individual Income Tax Service Learning Community (ACCT 444 / ACCT 314) [Finley]”.

Discussion:

This revised proposal includes the service piece that Gen Ed asked for and it has been through vetted through Darrin Good’s office. The committee asked that Darrin Good redefine the guidelines faculty use on how to incorporate the reflective component into their proposals. This was brought up because the committee was concerned with Part 3 of the LC proposal’s reflection paper requirements and how it incorporated reflection. Alli will talk to Darrin Good about this.

MOTION CARRIED

B. General Education Reform

The committee was thanked for their thoughtful ideas over the past few months on Gen Ed reform talks. The topics currently being discussed are helpful for future discussions and are issues Gen Ed will revisit. Alli expressed hope that Gen Ed continue these discussions, talking about the shape the curriculum will take if it is changed, and laying out the details to completion.

Alli passed out a document Ellen Hay designed entitled AGES and curriculum realignment for the committee to discuss as a possible suggestion Gen Ed can present to the 6/35 committee. Ellen points

out that since no one knows what the 6/35 Committee is going to propose or whether that proposal will pass, that Gen Ed should not spend any more time trying to figure out a specific General Education reduction plan; rather, let them know that Gen Ed is able to accomplish a reduction and give them a list of options that will accomplish that task. All committee members present supported choosing one of Ellen's options to present to the 6/35 committee as long as both semester and trimester models are provided.

The committee discussed whether a third option should be given, a combination of sorts from option #1 and option #2: including # 3 and #4 from option 2 and where the third term of the first year acts as a learning community. If LSFY reduction is only by one class, a layer of G and D would be added. Or, the LC could be eliminated and make the third LSFY course an integrated experience.

Another option for option #3 could be keeping the learning community and keeping the third LSFY, but reducing LPs further. This option would be used more or less as a rhetorical device to get the message across to faculty that something has to give. Another thought: tie the third class in LSFY to the major, as majors currently do not have an introductory course in the first year. In Music this might be problematic in terms of writing term papers.

What are these kinds of classes trying to accomplish? An introduction to academic life is a reasonable priority in the first year. Is integrative learning experiences really a priority? Are we just relabeling what we already have?

It was asked if the committee had any concerns with option #1 on a trimester system, with the third term being integrative, that on a semester model, the 2nd semester is integrated. Someone added that 102 could be a combination of our current 102 and 103 and that the integrative experience could be a J or May term, which would be a more concentrated wrap-up of the first year experience on a semester model.

Alli reviewed previous meetings' minutes and relayed most of the remaining concerns Gen Ed talked about were breadth, content of LSFY; areas which certainly can be ironed out if/once Gen Ed is charged with making such changes. In the long run it was felt that a complete redesign of Gen Ed will be needed because it has been chopped down so much, and some felt that would be an exciting prospect after it is known what we have to work with.

The committee came to the conclusion to present the 6/35 committee with the recommendation Ellen Hay drafted up. Alli will present the document with the reductions based on semester vs. trimester and will include a statement that Gen Ed will take on the task of making specific reductions/changes once a decision about semesters or trimesters has been made.

AGENDA ITEM III: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alli announced that Cathy Goebel's Liberal Arts Through the AGES will be presented several national conferences. It will also be featured at the Figge Museum in Davenport. Eighty plus faculty will contribute to the new book. Cathy also plans on meeting with the Gen Ed committee regarding its decision on her "D" suffix proposals which did not pass Gen Ed.

AGENDA ITEM IV: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Executive Secretary