

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2011

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

Members Present: Amanda Beveroth, Stefanie Bluemle, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Carrie Hough, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, Anna Knepler, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell, Mike Schroeder

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-McDowell, Second-Schroeder

“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of March 9, 2011.”

MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 3-9-11.

AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS

A & B. PN Learning Perspective and “I” Suffix Approval

Motion-Katz, Second-Koontz

“To approve a PN learning perspective for GEOL 104: Gemology.”

Motion-Katz, Second-Koontz

“To approve both a PN learning perspective and an I suffix for GEOL 104: Gemology.”

Discussion: The gist of the discussion was about the use of the inquiry wheel mentioned in the syllabus. Jason Koontz explained that it’s a tool developed by a group of scientists for use in teaching the scientific method and teaching ideas. The stages of scientific inquiry on the wheel are the main ideas the IRIS program was organized around, and inquiry wheels are in all the science labs. It helps build in reflection, communicating, etc.

MOTION APPROVED.

C. PH Learning Perspective Approval

This item was not discussed as ENGL 310 already has a PH designation.

D. Update from Academic Affairs

No update was given.

AGENDA ITEM III: OLD BUSINESS

A. Gen Ed Reduction Discussion

Highlights of discussion:

- 6/35 Committee is meeting on 3-17-11. Joe McDowell will ask them at that time if the 6/35 committee is planning to recommend any changes that will affect Gen Ed's Option B proposal.
- Alli Haskill is concerned about Option B's reliance on asking all faculty to contribute to the LSFY program. Four-credit courses could exclude faculty from teaching LSFY. Jason Koontz added that the Biology Department will no longer contribute to Gen Ed or international programs.
- Science issue is a concern, with students having to take 3 classes instead of 2.
- Equity concern of how lab time will be divided up in the sciences
- Everyone is not clear about the 3 / 4 course credit scenario. Do class periods just get shorter for a 3 credit class? Joe McDowell said some say whether or not you implement high-impact practices into your classes. If so, a case can be made for a 4 credit course.
- McDowell reported common belief that all non-academic departments favor a semester system. All 6/35 committee members except one voted to concentrate curricular changes on a trimester system, and the semester discussion will be taken off the table for now. This decision could have been based on avoiding a "deal breaker" in the curriculum reduction proposal. Faculty are about 50/50. Senior faculty favor a trimester and junior faculty favor a semester model. Alli Haskill's graduates who move on to graduate school, all indicate that they dislike semester models
- Gen Ed considered making a motion to impress upon the 6/35 committee that the semester option not be removed from the table, and that proposed curricular models be presented from both the semester and trimester scenarios at both the department and program levels, so that if five years from now it is suggested to revisit semester options, it is already done. No motion was made. Any faculty member may make such a motion at a faculty meeting. Joe McDowell thinks that Dave Dehnel's stance is that 6/35 was not mandated to offer calendar options.
- Perhaps 6/35 should address the issue of the huge incoming classes and how a reduction creates hardships in the departments
- 6/35 is to present their proposal to the faculty by week 6 of spring term.

IV ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. LSFY & Macro Gen Ed Issues
LSFY coordinators have met and reviewed the skills matrix, which has become grossly outdated. Alli asked the Gen Ed committee their permission to revise this document. The committee consented.
- B. A summer committee will be formed that will deal with grammar issues in written form. Hamilton College uses "Seven Deadly Sins of Writing" for their students. Alli asked that people let her know if they wish to sit on this committee. Joe McDowell nominated Sarah McDowell for this committee.
- C. Jon Clauss met with the LSFY coordinators about implementing Strategic Imperative #5: Developing an E-Portfolio system. Jon Clauss indicated that this will happen next year and that LSFY will be in charge of implementing it. The LSFY coordinators question if this is a curriculum issue that they should be dealing with. Should faculty be doing this instead? Alli Haskill will ask Ellen Hay for her advice, as they would like clarification before instructors are asked to implement this.

V ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski