

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2011

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Members Present: Stefanie Bluemle, Lendol Calder, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Ellen Hay, Carrie Hough, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell, Mike Schroeder

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Virginia Johnson indicated that Meg Gillette's name should be removed from those present on the February 9, 2011 meeting minutes.

Motion-Hough, Second-Koontz

"To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of February 9, 2011 as amended."

MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE AMENDED MINUTES OF 2-9-11.

AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome

Alli asked that anyone who continues having trouble downloading documents in Google Docs should contact her. Mike Schroeder was introduced to the committee. Mike will be replacing Mike Egan during Spring Term 10-11.

B. "PP" Learning Perspective Approvals

1. HIST 310: The Crucible of Europe [Mayer]

Motion-Johnson, Second-Calder

"To approve a PP learning perspective for HIST-310: The Crucible of Europe."

Discussion: The committee expressed concern that Tom Mayer did not answer all the questions requested for a PP learning perspective on the approval form, and that answers could not be gleaned from the syllabus either. Requesting the instructor to spell out writing requirements more clearly was also suggested by the committee. Alli will contact Tom Mayer with Gen Ed's concerns.

MOTION FAILED.

2. HIST 312: Renaissance and Reformation in the North [Mayer]

Motion-Katz, Second-Schroeder

"To approve a PP learning perspective for HIST-312: Renaissance and Reformation in the North."

Discussion: The committee felt the primary and secondary references for this course were addressed better in this proposal than the last, and the learning perspectives questions were answered better as well. The committee was somewhat concerned that Dr. Mayer rejects contested interpretations. Alli indicated that answering a preponderance of the questions satisfies the requirements.

MOTION CARRIED.

C. "PA" Learning Perspective Approval

1. THEA 410: Contemporary British Theatre [Kivisto]

Motion-McDowell, Second-Johnson

"To approve a PA learning perspective for THEA 410: Contemporary British Theatre."

Discussion: Ellen Hay questioned if this learning perspective was approved by the department and division. Alli will verify this before it gets sent to EPC. Alli also informed the committee that EPC is in continued discussions about the issue of foreign term taught by non-Augustana instructors. Alli Haskill noted that a separate course number will be given to this course because of the special topics designation. The committee felt that the lack of details on the assignments made the task of evaluating the answers to the PA questions difficult; however, all the criteria were addressed.

MOTION CARRIED.

D. "PS" Learning Perspective Approvals

1. POLS 375: Contemporary Britain: Continuity and Change [Kivisto]

Motion-Katz, Second-McDowell

"To approve a PS learning perspective for POLS 375: Contemporary Britain: Continuity and Change."

Discussion: POLS 375 is a special topics course. As before, this course will need a separate course number because of that fact. The committee had no concerns about the proposal. They surmised that the proposal, as written by Peter Kivisto, reflects how *he* interprets the class will be taught. Peter's approach was one of a social theorist. The committee would have liked to see an introduction to ethnography in it. The committee felt that exposing students to theoretical perspectives to help them understand is in the spirit of question #1 for a PS. Overall the committee felt that the content was consistent with an individuals and society perspective.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. SOC 380: Multicultural Britain [Kivisto]

Motion-Johnson, Second-McDowell

"To approve a PS learning perspective for SOC 380: Multicultural Britain."

Discussion: SOC 380 is a special topics course. As before, this course will need a separate course number because of that fact. Committee members felt there was not sufficient detail included in the assignments; the proposal indicated that details would be provided later. A committee member responded that the instructor did answer all of the six PS questions sufficiently, and that Gen Ed's charge is to evaluate whether the course is worthy of the learning perspectives designation, not the evaluation of assignments. After discussion, the committee concluded that the instructor likely has not yet shaped the assignments.

MOTION CARRIED.

E. "G" Suffix Approval

1. SOC 380: Multicultural Britain [Kivisto]

Motion-McDowell, Second-Katz

"To approve a G Suffix for SOC 380: Multicultural Britain."

MOTION CARRIED.

F. Update from 6/35:

This week's Friday Conversations will be a discussion presented by the 6/35 committee. Gen Ed was scheduled to present at the following week's Friday Conversations; however, at this point Alli feels it would be confusing to have a Gen Ed conversation. Gen Ed's Friday Conversations will, therefore, be cancelled, but Alli asks that Gen Ed members be present at Friday's 6/35 presentation where Gen Ed can make general comments about curricular reform and plans for moving forward.

G. Update from Academic Affairs:

Alli Haskill asked Ellen Hay if General Education broad reform proposals would need to go through faculty governance. Ellen replied that the last time Gen Ed reformed (GEWG), the proposal was brought to the faculty, as was Evergreen.

III OLD BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee work

Alli asked that the subcommittee get their drafts to her soon. She will put things on Google Docs Thursday or Friday. During week four LCs and Suffix drafts can be worked on.

IV ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Next Gen Ed Meeting is March 16, 2011 .

V ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski