

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2013
Olin 304**

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

Members Present: Richie Benson, Stefanie Bluemle, Lendol Calder, Kristin Douglas, Mike Egan, Janene Finley, Carrie Hough, Rick Jaeschke, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, John Pfautz

Guests Present: Mary Koski

The meeting was chaired by Carrie Hough.

1. Consent Agenda

The following item was approved by the General Education Committee 4-17-13:

Learning Community: Childhood in Challenging Circumstances

PSYC 305: Childhood in the Developing World [Mull]

PSYC 306: Serving Children at Risk [Rose]

2. PP FOR FREN 311: Prerevolutionary France [Chambers-Samadi]

Motion-Egan, Second-Katz

“To send PP Learning Perspective approval request for FREN 311: Prerevolutionary France back to Chadia Chambers-Samadi requesting answers to the four questions on the PP form and submission of a syllabus.”

MOTION CARRIED

3. Discussion of 4/19/13 Friday Conversation

Many of the faculty present at the Friday Conversation expressed a dislike for the developmental sequence, for the most part because of foreseen complications in course registration, expecting students to sequence their own courses, making our system more complicated. At least two Gen Ed members indicated that faculty at their tables were concerned with how the change would affect them personally; not philosophically about how this will translate into learning.

Additional feedback

- Difficult to staff
- Suggested changes are too drastic, and modifications should be made with the current curriculum
- Concern expressed about losing G and D, and concern that students may not experience global
- No resistance was felt towards re-conceptualizing the G and D
- Pragmatic (staffing) concerns expressed about mandating a percentage of a course to be experiential
- A comparative of things in our culture to the ways of doing things in other cultures is important in this kind of experience. Cognitive dissonance is important
- Concern expressed about labeling people “other” because there are “other” people that are already in our classes

It was reported that at the Friday Conversation Nirmala Salgado inquired what the Gen Ed Committee’s thoughts were on the “2011 Statement by Members of African, Asian, Islamic/Middle Eastern and Latin American Studies in Support of Continuing a Global Education Requirement” document that was sent to the Gen Ed Committee in 2011. This document came out of the 6/35 discussion when Gen Ed was tasked with making a plan for reducing

Gen Ed requirements. John Pfautz indicated that he was the member who requested that statement, and soon afterwards had to leave the Gen Ed committee. Even though some resistance to revisiting this document was expressed, it was asked that the document be re-sent to the Gen Ed Committee for review, as well as the "Request to Continue the 'D' Requirement" document written by Jane Simonsen. Kristin Douglas suggests reading the documents in terms of skills development to work toward ICC outcomes.

A Gen Ed member commented that whatever Gen Ed proposes, making change is difficult and there may be resistance to proposed changes and support to just refine the current curriculum. Underlying that is the faculty members' inner thoughts about needing to reorganize their courses for evaluation by Gen Ed. One Gen Ed member asked the committee to recall that what we learned from the Wabash Study that it is not the structure of the general education program that matters, it is the quality of the teaching. Adding to that comment, another member expressed that Gen Ed still does not know what is going on in G and D courses and may want to look at them. One way is to invite faculty teaching general education courses to meet with the Gen Ed Committee to present their courses for critique. Kristin Douglas indicated that the Gen Ed Committee has an interesting opportunity with the intercultural competency outcomes by working with others, such as Greg Aguilar, the International and off Campus Program Committee, the COMPASS group, and other campus committees to discuss incorporating student activities, residence halls activities, etc. Someone suggested that the Augustana's Faculty Development Working Group may be able to help the Gen Ed Committee with working through this change. Kristin Douglas suggested an ICC retreat after finals to bring in people from those various constituencies for a half-day discussion on what the various groups are working on. Gen Ed members expressed support for this, but after finals was not an optimal time. One suggestion was to make this discussion part of the Faculty Retreat; however, the faculty retreat will focus on strategic planning. An event in early summer was also suggested. Most committee members felt it would be optimal if there is movement on such an event in the beginning of the fall so that work hasn't paused until then, or perhaps a couple Gen Ed members could be sent to a conference in the summer.

4. LSFY Matrix

Meg Gillette reported there was a poor turnout at the LSFY faculty meeting where the proposed revised LSFY Matrix was presented, but that enthusiasm was expressed for simplifying the matrix. Kristin suggested that Gen Ed could vote that the new matrix be used by LSFY faculty the coming academic year on a trial basis. It could then be modified as needed based on faculty suggestions and could then be voted on by faculty the following year for permanent status. Since the 5:00 hour approached no vote was taken on the new matrix and will therefore be put on the next meeting agenda. Kristin Douglas will investigate how the last matrix went through the governance process and report back.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Office of Academic Affairs