

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2011

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

Members Present: Stefanie Bluemle, Lendol Calder, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, Anna Knepler, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell, Karin Youngberg

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Koontz, Second-Katz

“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of March 30, 2011.”

MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE MINUTES OF 3-30-11.

AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS

A. Learning Perspectives Approval

Motion-Calder, Second-Koontz

“To approve a PH learning perspective for HIST 390: Everyday Life at the Dawn of Modernity [Theimann].”

Discussion: This is a foreign-term course taught by a non-Augustana instructor. The Department has approved the course/course number. A suggestion was made to have dates/time period added to the name of the course to make it clearer in the catalog. The committee wondered why there was no special suffix attached to the course number as with other foreign-term courses. Alli Haskill replied that this is at the advice of the Registrar. Lendol Calder added that HIST 390 is the department’s place holder for courses that change every time. A concern was raised if the video presentation assignment contained adequate evidence of a position statement related to the human condition, or was it more of analysis of text rather than human values. The majority of the committee members felt that the readings contain adequate coverage of PH elements, even if the assignments are unclear in that regard. Alli Haskill reinforced this by saying that the syllabus is not required to be in final form if this committee feels comfortable with all PH elements being met through the objectives and in other places in the proposal. Some concern was expressed if that some of the connections to the PH elements might be lost since the student move from one segment/one instructor to the next. Alli Haskill assured the committee that EPC will addresses the connectedness of the experiences.

MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

A. Gen Ed Reduction/Revision Discussion

Brian Katz summarized the LPs and Breadth subcommittee's report, which includes a breadth experience focused on:

- More coherency
- Intentionality
 - Capstone or E-Portfolio or something tied in with advising
- Pre-established cluster of courses grouped thematically to bring breadth together in classroom.
- Revising 2nd year program to be like LSFY sequence

It is hoped that greater emphasis will be implemented to achieve the following:

- Assessment of LPs to know if they work.
- Faculty load
- Skills matrix for LPs and adding greater coherence
- Determining if students get as much breadth for required courses

The discussion turned to brainstorming about a general education multidisciplinary senior project/capstone experience which pulls all four years together through a project or senior paper which intentionally connects a student's major into other areas. Included in the discussion were ideas such as implementing a mentoring system to follow students along the way to ensure students travel successfully through several gateways, where the rotating faculty from each department overseeing the experiences would be paid.

Joe McDowell updated the committee on 6/35 progress. Proposal 1 is a 3-term structure involving no changes to seat time. This is expected to bring Augustana in line with peer institutions. This also helps some departments (like Biology) facilitate their students' acceptance into graduate school. A BA will require 140 course credits and a typical annual course load will be recalibrated to 9 courses. All courses will be 4 credits. Proposal 2 is a semester model, (which is still up for debate), with 4-credit courses and includes either a J- or May-term. Joe McDowell indicated there are several models for the semester system to consider, however, 6/35 has not yet studied them in detail. The Gen Ed committee members asked J-/May-term questions such as: Is achieving the right number mathematically the rationale to include this in the curriculum? Joe McDowell replied that it has more to do with pedagogy. In studying other colleges, students use J-/May-term to do interesting projects, like capstone, or use the time to finish up unfinished projects or for taking trips. Some departments, such as Theatre and Geology, cannot participate in foreign terms because release time makes it unaffordable. This would allow departments to take students off campus for an extended period of time. Joe McDowell indicated that it would not necessarily happen every year, rather students would be required to take a certain number of J-/May-terms. Departments would work out a faculty rotation schedule for this term. Joe McDowell has heard a lot of excitement among faculty for the J-/May-term. The 6/35 committee will take their proposal to the upcoming division meetings, then a faculty forum on April 14th and finally for vote at the April 28th full-faculty meeting.

IV ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gen Ed's next meeting will be April 13, 2011. There will be no meeting on May 4, 2011. Alli Haskill reported on a service learning community proposal coming through for Gen Ed's approval without being vetted by Darrin Good. EPC has asked that Gen Ed review the LC proposal for its LC-ness, and not focus on the service learning aspects.

Regarding last week's history proposal coming from Sociology, Alli Haskill informed the committee that Peter Kivisto asked David Ellis for permission to use their course number and that David granted it. She also asked Peter Kivisto to submit additional information for the questions being asked.

V ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski