

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 19, 2012  
Olin 304**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

**Members Present:** Richie Benson, Stefanie Bluemle, Joe Bright, Lendol Calder, Patrick Crawford, Kristin Douglas, Mike Egan, Margaret Farrar, Janene Finley, Meg Gillette, Carrie Hough, Rick Jaeschke, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, John Pfautz, Eric Pitts, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson

**Guests Present:** Mary Koski

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion-Egan, Second-Hough**

**“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2012.”**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**LSFY 102 APPROVALS**

**Al-Wazedi**

The Committee was asked if they would like to review the LSFY 102 course approval from Umme Al-wazedi. The committee made some comments that Meg Gillette will share with Umme, but no motion to approve was made. This course approval will go through GPG for one-time approval.

- Grammar issues in the course description should be corrected
- Remove parenthetical note under Course Objectives in the syllabus
- Course seems more of a 103 course than a 102 course; more modern melting pot vs. diverse and changing world

**McCray**

The Committee was asked if they would like to review the LSFY 102 course approval from Brigitte McCray. The committee liked the proposal very much. In response to concern about bringing students to St. Anthony’s Nursing Home, Meg Gillette informed the committee that Brigitte will apply for a service learning designation for the course. No motion to approve was made. Reference to winter term opening convocation should be removed. This course approval will go through GPG for one-time approval.

**CONSIDER LEARNING OUTCOMES AND FACULTY PRIORITIES**

Lendol Calder addressed the committee by proposing the committee vote today on 2-3 important issues most pressing to the general education program that need resolved this year. To streamline the process, he proposes breaking the Gen Ed committee into subcommittees that meet separately (or electronically) and eliminating weekly Gen Ed committee meetings. It was suggested that Google Docs be utilized to streamline communication in a more intentional way. He explained how higher education has entered a time of crisis and will begin to look different as a result of the forces of the breakdown of our economic model and the digital environment. The General Education Committee needs to respond by being more efficient and task oriented.

Committee members wanted to know when basic gen ed curriculum approval would occur. The committee supported the idea of forming two subcommittees for the purpose of evaluating general

education course approval proposals: one for review of suffixes, learning perspectives and learning communities; the other for LSFY courses. These will be discussed, evaluated and on voted electronically (unless the subcommittee should desire to meet in person). Committee members were asked to email Rowen Schussheim-Anderson with their preference on which subcommittee to be on. Both Carrie Hough and Brian Katz indicated preference for the non-LSFY committee. It was felt that the Gen Ed Committee chair should not be on one of the subcommittees. Margaret Farrar suggested scheduling one meeting of the entire committee week one of each term.

**Motion-Calder, Second-Hough**

**“To form two subcommittees to vet general education course approval requests: one for LSFY, the other for suffixes, learning perspectives, and LCs.”**

**MOTION CARRIED**

For the LSFY subcommittee, the leader will need to set deadlines so that course can get submitted to governance in time. The Office of Academic Affairs will generate reminders to faculty of upcoming deadlines. Both subcommittee leaders should apprise the Gen Ed Committee chair of their discussions should EPC want to discuss proposals further. Leaders may be asked to accompany the Gen Ed committee chair to EPC meetings.

Discussion continued on identifying 2-3 big issues and with a suggestion to form ad hoc task committee to work on those issues. Lendol shared two issues of most importance to him.

- 1) Narrative for Augustana’s General Education Program
- 2) Learning Perspectives...a huge unexamined part of our program

Other ideas brought forward:

- Streamlining skills matrix (make this seamless throughout gen ed course and non-gen ed courses throughout all four years)
- Clarify the story of LSFY. Invite LSFY instructors and Kent Barnds to this conversation. Cannot begin with LSFY without overarching question.

There was consensus for each committee member to research 3-5 other peer and aspirant liberal arts colleges, or any college with a good reputation in this area, to figure out how they make sense of their general education program, how they sell their story, how they market themselves. Committee members can contribute their findings on a Google Doc which Margaret Farrar will create. Margaret will also generate an initial draft of colleges; committee members can feel free to add or subtract to it judging on what they know. Committee members should include their name next to the colleges they are researching.

Virginia Johnson suggested committee members keep the vision statements that were generated at the faculty meeting in the background of discussions.

The next meeting of the General Education Committee will be Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 4:00 PM in Olin 304.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion-Katz, Second-Pfautz**

“To adjourn the meeting at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski, Academic Affairs