

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**MEETING MINUTES****November 17, 2010****Olin 304**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.

Members Present: Amanda Beveroth, Mike Egan, Margaret Farrar, Randall Hall, Brian Katz, Anna Knepler, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell

Guests Present: Mike Augspurger, Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Egan, Second-Koontz APPROVED

“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of October 27, 2010 as submitted.”

AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS

Update from Academic Affairs – Joe McDowell and Ellen Hay discussed an idea of instituting E-portfolios into Augustana’s curriculum beginning in the first-year gen ed program and following through until graduation. An example, would be that in LSFY 101, one writing assignment would be writing an E-portfolio about drawing connections between a student’s gen ed experiences. Assessment would become an extension of this experience. Ellen will speak more on this with the Gen Ed Committee once she starts attending meetings.

LSFY Approval

Motion-Koontz, Second-Katz

“To approve LSFY 103: Genre Bending: The Art of Literary Collage [Bertram] pending the instructor integrating common experiences (convocation, white privilege conference) into her course.”

Discussion: Concern was expressed that there is nothing in the proposal or syllabus indicating students would be attending two convocations per the skills matrix, and no language about engaging with other perspectives/evaluating limits per Critical Thinking section of skills matrix. Others felt the intentions are built in the course regarding the latter. Consensus was reached to approve the course provisionally if the instructor incorporated the common experiences.

MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ITEM III: OLD BUSINESS**“G” Suffix Requests for ARHI Courses**

Motion-Katz, Second-Egan

“To approve a G suffix for ARHI-165, ARHI-166, ARHI-167, ARHI-362, ARHI-363, ARHI-364, ARHI 365 [Morse] as resubmitted.”

Discussion: Margaret Morse revised her proposals to be more consistent with the language of those G suffixes passed last spring. She has gone to great lengths to show cultural context in her classes.

MOTION CARRIED.

General Education Reform – The committee’s discussion of an AGES reduction for the purposes of 6/35 led to consensus on the following points:

- The LSFY sequence should remain a full year experience
- We should condense the D and G suffixes into one (e.g., "Global diversity")
- We should eliminate the I suffix, because we believe with the introduction of Senior Inquiry, students are doing inquiry-based, investigative work
- We will include a maximum of 6 LPs
- We will leave the Religion requirement in place, without specifying (yet) if this should be a Christian Traditions or Religious Traditions requirement. Because these are all LPed, this effectively means we will have a maximum of 5 LPs

In short, this eliminates 5 classes (or 15 credits) from our Gen Ed requirements.

Areas of uncertainty include:

- What do we do with LCs? If we leave them as a stand-alone requirement, but still count language classes and PE within AGES, we're not yet where we need to be in terms of a reduction. (Can we make an argument for not including language in this calculation, given that roughly 40% of our students fulfill their language requirements through placing out, etc.)
- Should LCs be incorporated into LSFY 103?
- Should we pursue the cluster option? (This does not need to be ironed out until much later, but we have not yet reached consensus about this point)
- Can we (for example) reduce LSFY classes or language classes to 2 credits each, making them a smaller % of overall gen ed requirements?

When the time comes, Gen Ed’s recommendation to the Departments should be written such that we avoid a departmental “blinded by rage” response. Decisions we are certain of will be clearly spelled out, as will recommendations we are struggling with.

AGENDA ITEM V ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski