

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2010
Olin 304**

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

Members Present: Mike Egan, Margaret Farrar, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskell, Ellen Hay, Carrie Hough, Virginia Johnson, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-McDowell, Second-Hall APPROVED

"To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of November 17, 2010 as submitted."

AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS

A. Update from Academic Affairs – Ellen Hay reported she will attend Gen Ed meetings in Margaret Farrar's absence. When she is unable to attend, Mike Augspurger will attend.

B. "G" Suffix Approval

Motion-Johnson, Second-Koontz

"To approve a G suffix for ENGL 315G: Writers and Readers Beyond Our Borders [Al-wazedi]."

MOTION CARRIED.

LSFY 103 Approvals

1. Motion-Hough, Second-Johnson

"To approve LSFY 103: Post-Apocalyptic Visions [Marklevits] with the provisions that diversity pieces are explained more directly, that the connections between refugees/immigrants and the readings will be made, and that more detail is incorporated about how the second book, "The Visitor", and the White Privilege Conference will be used in the course."

Concerns:

- No explanation of integration of "They Say I Say" in syllabus
- Diversity needs to be more explicitly stated
- Reference to The Visitor and connection to White Privilege Conference is too vague
- A more explicit connection with the experience with migrants and refugees could be made.

The committee voted to approve this with the provision that diversity pieces are explained more directly, and the connections between refugees/immigrants with the readings and more explanation about the second book, "The Visitor", and the White Privilege Conference.

MOTION CARRIED

2. LSFY 103: Islam and Muslims in the Contemporary World [L. Wolf]

Motion-Egan, Second-Hough

"To approve LSFY 103: Islam and Muslims in the Contemporary World [L. Wolf]."

Concerns:

- Written assignment was more of an informative research topic instead of case-making essays
- Lack of reference to "They Say I Say"
- Syllabus needs to adopt skills matrix process piece
- Overly ambitious proposal in its scope; tries to do too much

The committee asked that Alli suggest to Leslie Wolf to get feedback on his proposal from Cyrus Zargar.

MOTION FAILED

D. Learning Community Approvals

1. MUSC 343/ENGL 315G: Stories and Soundscapes: Literature, Music and Life Experience [Rayapati/Al-wazedi]

Motion-Egan, Second-Koontz

"To approve Learning Community MUSC 343/ENGL 315G: Stories and Soundscapes: Literature, Music and Life Experience [Rayapati/Al-wazedi] provided both syllabi are made parallel and include shared assignments."

Discussion: This learning community has been taught previously and is being submitted as a new learning community because a "G" suffix is now being added to ENGL 315.

Concerns:

- Both syllabi failed describe the core common assignments
- "Sonny's Blues", the common reading, is not in course schedule for ENGL315G
- Due date for written response for "Sonny's Blues" is in Music syllabus but no mention when this will be read or discussed in either syllabus
- No mention of when they will visit each other's classes
- "The Namesake" film doesn't appear in course schedules of either syllabus
- Film review is an assignment only for the Music class, not a combined assignment, and does not state when film will be viewed or discussed
- Calendar needs updated

The committee felt the proposal should be passed with the provision that the professors make the syllabi parallel and include shared assignments in the syllabi. Mike Egan volunteered to relay Gen Ed's concerns to the faculty.

MOTION CARRIED.

2. HIST 147/WGST 320: Black Women Writing and Making History [Cleveland/Skrainka]**Motion-Egan, Second-McDowell****"To approve Learning Community HIST 147/WGST 320: Black Women Writing and Making History [Cleveland/Skrainka]."****Concerns:**

- Sarah's syllabus should be more developed. The key component is the interview; will that be successful?
- More commonality between the two classes is needed.
- Not sure how African history and African women's writing would happen.
- Topics on proposal are broad.
- Todd Cleveland should add to the requirements section of his syllabus.
- Both classes talk about women's point of view. There should be more common issues both classes would address.

The committee suggests fleshing out more in the syllabus, and even using wording from the proposal more.

MOTION FAILED.**3. ACCT 314/ACCT 444: VITA Income Tax Learning Community [Finley]****Motion-McDowell, Second-Johnson****"To approve Learning Community ACCT 314/ACCT 444: VITA Income Tax Learning Community [Finley]."****Concerns:**

Concerns about service learning were expressed because of the new service learning guidelines. Alli will bring to EPC's attention that this should be reviewed by Darrin Good.

Reflection piece is not fleshed out and is very weak, even though there is potential for rich reflection and big connection. Gen Ed had this concern last Fall and requested that the reflection piece be better written. Ultimately the committee was satisfied enough to pass the LC then, yet this remains a concern.

Alli to talk to Janene Finley about getting Darrin Good's evaluation before the proposal goes to EPC. Alli will ask Janene to resubmit this proposal after revisions.

MOTION FAILED.**AGENDA ITEM III: OLD BUSINESS**

Gen Ed Reform Discussion: Margaret suggested that very soon Gen Ed should send GPG and EPC the points that Gen Ed currently agrees upon, as written in the 11-17-10 minutes, as well as those points the committee is uncertain about. This will give them something to work with. This should be given to them by trimester and by semester. Alli will draft a document and email to Gen Ed members by Monday for review, comments, etc. Before sending on to departments, GPG, EPC, Alli will get feedback from Margaret.

Joe McDowell will invite foreign language representatives into our discussion for next week's meeting to be placed first on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM IV: ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Next meeting is Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 4:00 PM in Olin 304.
2. Because the Dean finalist presentation conflicts with our December 8, 2010 Gen Ed meeting, Gen Ed will not meet that day.

AGENDA ITEM V: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski