

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**MEETING MINUTES****December 1, 2010****Olin 304**

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

Members Present: Amanda Beveroth, Lendol Calder, Stefanie Bluemle, Mike Egan, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Ellen Hay, Carrie Hough, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell, Karin Youngberg

Guests Present: Taddy Kalas, Mary Koski, Jen-Mei Ma, Lars Scott

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Egan, Second-Gillette APPROVED

“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of November 24, 2010 as submitted.”

AGENDA ITEM II: FOREIGN LANGUAGE CONVERSATION

Taddy Kalas, Jen-Mei Ma and Lars Scott were invited to the meeting so that Gen Ed could get their impression of whether Augustana’s foreign language requirement should or should not be part of Gen Ed requirements. The foreign language representatives did not feel that foreign language needed to be a part of Gen Ed.

AGENDA ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS

A. Update from Academic Affairs – Ellen Hay passed around a book on high impact practices that describes many things happening at Augustana. She also handed out a chapter about integrating learning communities and first-year seminars.

B. Learning Community Approval

Motion-Egan, Second-Youngberg

“To approve POLS 375/WLIT 326: The Individual, Society, and the State [Dehnel/Kalas] as a Learning Community.”

Discussion: The committee knows both these instructors have embedded knowledge about learning communities, however, there are no objectives or learning goals, etc. communicated in the proposal. The committee asked Alli to relay to the professors to resubmit the proposal with the addition of learning outcomes, explicit explanation of how they handle joint classroom activities, and to flesh out the community piece more in the syllabi.

Motion-Koontz, Second-Earel

“To TABLE POLS 375/WLIT 326: The Individual, Society, and the State [Dehnel/Kalas] as a Learning Community.

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED.

C. “D” Suffix, SOCI 315. AS&D requested Gen Ed’s opinion on whether or not a course taken by a former Augustana student qualifies for a “D” suffix. The committee read the course description and indicated that they do believe it qualifies for a “D” suffix. Alli Haskill will relay this to AS&D.

AGENDA ITEM IV: OLD BUSINESS

a. General Education Reform. The committee agreed that by next week Gen Ed will hand over the 6/35 committee a tangible document of the General Education reform changes that the committee all agrees upon.

Concerns/discussion points:

- If foreign language was removed from Gen Ed requirements, would Gen Ed recalculate the 11 2/3 reduction based on the fact that foreign language was not included?
- Learning Communities:
 - How shocking would it be to change learning communities?
 - By keeping learning community requirement, a reduction in Gen Ed requirements still must be made
 - Should learning communities remain under the Gen Ed umbrella, or be incorporated into a major? Logistics in doing this would be challenging.
 - Interest was expressed in seeing how many faculty who teach learning communities are teaching the course in their own major.
 - Investigate further the learning community team-taught design of one term, three credit courses, and incorporating learning communities into the first-year sequence. Determine what the goal of having a year one learning community experience is, e.g., a more senior experience early on; bringing in multiple perspectives on a single problem, etc.
 - Joe McDowell’s learning community idea: 2 sections of 103. Teacher #1 teaches first five weeks and teacher #2 teaches second five weeks. Still two faculty members teaching two sections, so not to impact load (call it team teach). Team teach two LSFY sections, but would count for one course for faculty load. Need to collaborate on the skills. Teach first five weeks of building skills.
 - Adding an LP to a learning community. If each of the three LSFY courses had LPs attached, and six LPs are required, then only three more LPs would need to be taken after freshman year.
 - Staffing issue continues to be troublesome for learning communities.
 - There is no assessment data on learning communities. Feelings of uncertainty about what the place of learning communities should be, knowing how little we know about them.
 - What would happen if we did away with learning communities? The faculty response from last year was very much in favor of keeping learning communities. The ones that are popular and would survive could turn into immersion terms, as students taking those were enthused going in and coming out.

AGENDA ITEM IV: ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gen Ed will not meet on December 8, 2010. The next meeting will be December 15, 2010.

AGENDA ITEM V: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski



ADDENDUM TO 12/1/10 MEETING MINUTES

The Gen Ed Committee removed the following motion from the table and held an electronic vote on 12-7-10 to approve the learning community .

Motion-Egan, Second-Youngberg

“To approve POLS 375/WLIT 326: The Individual, Society, and the State [Dehnel/Kalas] as a Learning Community as revised.”

MOTION CARRIED BY ELECTRONIC VOTE

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski