

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE****MEETING MINUTES****September 15, 2010****Olin 304**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM. Alli Haskill indicated that LSFY 102 Course Approval for Birondo should be moved to Old Business.

**Members Present:** Amanda Beveroth, Lendol Calder, Anne Earel, Mike Egan, Margaret Farrar, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, Anna Knepler, Jason Koontz

**Guests Present:** Darrin Good, Mary Koski

**AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion-Koontz, Second-Johnson APPROVED**

**“That the General Education Committee meeting minutes of September 8, 2010 be approved as presented.”**

**AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS**

**Update from Academic Affairs:** Margaret Farrar asked the committee answer the question: how small is too small before a community loses its value, and are we willing to support smaller-sized learning communities that occur in the summer. There is no research that settles this question, however, Augustana’s 2010 summer LC students who were polled said that they felt they did have an intense sense of community. Lendol felt that a learning community with three people could be just as good as one with 30, and that sentiment was supported by Brian. Alli was convinced that last year the value was placed on the quality of the design of the program, not the numbers. The consensus of the committee is that a Learning Community must have a minimum of two (2) students.

**Service Learning (SL) at Augustana:** Darrin Good announced his role as an administrator, offering advising and support. Students’ desire for service learning opportunities has been on the rise. Augustana lags behind peer schools in this area. Our goal is to increase these. Darrin explained the difference between internships and volunteering is that service learning has to be tightly connected to a course. Service learning should have some number of hours and should have a strong reflective component. In looking at different programs, many didn’t include hours of service, and if they did it was 20 hours. Augustana’s “Guidelines” document states 20 hours minimum community service is required. Darrin clarified that this is a *guideline*, not a mandatory number. Any SL course proposal can include a persuasive case calling for fewer hours. And the same idea goes for the any other criteria in the guidelines.....faculty should use this document as a reference. Service learning at Augustana will not become an additional Gen Ed requirement for students at this time. Alli Haskill indicated that service learning will affect the Gen Ed Committee with learning community proposals, and asked if the Gen Ed

committee will be the first stop in the governance process. Darrin replied that EPC is still in conversation about this matter, talking about perhaps forming a service learning committee to help with the review process. More information on this should be available next week. Darrin will work with the faculty to work out pitfalls in their proposals, e.g., one credit add-ons, they don't have it in their load, where is extra overload pay coming from. Alli asked that if new service learning proposals come to Gen Ed prior to the guidelines being finalized, should Gen Ed judge them according to the guidelines, and Darrin replied affirmatively. Gen Ed asked that if current courses meet the SL guidelines, could they get the Registrar's stamp now? Darrin didn't know, but thought EPC likely would make that decision. EPC will be the primary committee to see if courses meet the standards or not and they'll send those on to faculty senate.

### **AGENDA ITEM III: OLD BUSINESS**

**Course Approval:** LSFY 102: A History of Ethics: From Socrates to Nietzsche [Birondo]

**Motion-Katz, Second-Koontz APPROVED**

Discussion: The committee was very pleased with the revision of the proposal and asked Alli Haskill to relay to Jeff Coussens and to Noell Birondo that they very much appreciate the thoughtful changes put into the revision.

**“To approve LSFY 102: A History of Ethics: From Socrates to Nietzsche as revised.”**

**General Education Reconfiguration:** The committee reviewed the Timeline for General Education Recommendations and discussed the feasibility of accomplishing the tasks by the March 18, 2011 deadline. Suggestions from the committee: 1) to invite Adam Kaul from the 6/35 committee; 2) to change week 10 All-LSFY meeting to be held earlier in order to have feedback earlier than the October 15<sup>th</sup> timeline date; 3) Gen Ed should be conscientious about sharing it's timeline and the process it is using to collect information. Margaret Farrar will be emailing faculty explaining what Gen Ed has already done in this process, what they're going to do to solicit feedback, etc., so that people know when they'll be called upon to give opinion.

Alli reviewed the materials that have been collected on Moodle. Virginia offered that there is a survey available that has not been sent to LSFY faculty yet, which could be sent out to see if faculty are perceiving that LSFY is making a difference outside LSFY courses. This survey could be used for all faculty...not just LSFY. Lendol brought up a Wabash report written by Charles Blaich which concluded it doesn't matter what the institution's gen ed program is. He would like to have that report made available for the committee. Margaret added that our own Wabash data supports that conclusion, and she will invite Mark Salisbury, Director of Institutional Research to meet with Gen Ed as well to discuss further.

Alli asked if the committee would like to talk to colleagues from institutions that have gone away from what we do now. The committee indicated it would like more information about the business side of this kind of change: are departments affected, do they get smaller, would faculty lose their tenure-track status? Also, does eliminating gen ed courses reflect on the number of majors you offer?

It was suggested to keep in mind of aiming for a flexible system so students have the freedom to follow a thread of classes they're interested in and avoiding making the curriculum rigid. Margaret added that a number of schools eliminated their gen ed program entirely and distribution requirements in order to get to a flexible system. If this is a priority for Augustana, that's something we might want to speak to Grinnell about.

Margaret Farrar recommended that everyone read Ellen Hay's *Report on General Education at Augustana: How are we Doing?* Found on the Moodle site in General Education Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM IV: ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion-Gillette, Second-Egan APPROVED**

**"To adjourn the 9-15-10 General Education committee meeting at 4:59 PM."**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski