

Augustana College

Rock Island, IL

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**MEETING MINUTES****September 22, 2010****Olin 304**

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

Members Present: Amanda Beveroth, Anne Earel, Mike Egan, Margaret Farrar, Meg Gillette, Randall Hall, Alli Haskill, Carrie Hough, Brian Katz, Jason Koontz, Joe McDowell, Karin Youngberg

Guests Present: Mary Koski

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Hall, Second-Gillette APPROVED

“That the General Education Committee meeting minutes of September 15, 2010 be approved as presented.”

AGENDA ITEM II: NEW BUSINESS

Mini Grant for LC Policy – Margaret asked the committee for input into this document; informing her if anything was unclear or if more information should be included. Ellen Hay’s thought is that every year the focus be on a different set of high impact practices for the mini grant. It was asked why not require all LC instructors to give students a survey. It’s Margaret’s hope that a more thoughtful process occurs with the incentive, and demanding feedback is something that could be counterproductive. Another concern was of conflict of interest with faculty assessing their own courses. Margaret responded that it must be made clear that this is classroom assessment and not evaluation. It is the hope that the faculty likely to participate in this are genuinely interested in what students are learning and will be thoughtful in the process. Regarding the pre-post design....if the focus is on prompt feedback or teaching clarity of organization, what would pre-data be? Margaret replied: gauging student expectation...meeting commitments. Prompt in this case means you’ll do what you say you’re going to do. The committee asked Margaret include citations to Cabrera and Nasa in the policy.

Update from Academic Affairs: Nothing new to report.

AGENDA ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

Learning Community Proposal

Motion-Katz, Second-Gillette APPROVED

“To approve Learning Community: Zen and Archery (HEPE 121/RELG 365) [Whiteside/Salgado] as revised.”

Discussion: The committee liked the joint assignment and five-week overlap and felt this would be a fun course to take. Suggestions from Gen Ed: 1) instructors think about finding an archer who works with Zen to come in during the class, or get clarification that Fred Whiteside and Mr. Shipman have expertise in this area. In terms of practicum, have one person demonstrate one approach and then have someone else demonstrate another approach; 2) that the Religion class have two syllabi (one for the LC students; and another for those not in the LC); 3) make sure spelling of Kurosawa is correct in the revised LC

proposal; 4) Archery syllabus should indicate how students will be evaluated; 5) relay to EPC that Gen Ed committee questions how assessment will happen. Alli will let the instructors know that did a good job in revising their proposal.

General Education Reform: At this week's division meetings Gen Ed members were requested to remind division heads that Gen Ed has been charged to reduce the Gen Ed program, and should attempt to get feedback about priorities their division has in bringing down the number of credits. Mark Salisbury will speak to the Gen Ed committee on 9/29/10. Committee members were asked to let Alli Haskill know of any special topic they would like him to focus on. Joe McDowell reminded Alli to invite Adam Kaul to a Gen Ed meeting as a representative from the 6/35 committee whose input will be helpful in this discussion. The 6/35 committee is asking departments to cut their major(s) and gen ed requirements by one-third.

Alli asked for thoughts on either the big priorities to preserve or mildly reform, or things that are easier to let go of than others. Responses from the discussion:

- Looking at 6+3 with learning perspectives....Does reducing these by 3 hurt breadth? Ellen Hay is trying to find research on this, and Mark Salisbury is locating the Charles Blaich research referenced at last week's meeting for the Gen Ed committee to read.
- Doing away with all required learning perspectives but require the department the student's major is in to list a menu of supporting courses from other departments that students could select from. This would get students to take courses outside their major. Best to encourage students to take classes from this menu in sophomore year
- Possibly require the maximum number of credits needed for a second major be fewer than those for the first major
- Construct contract-major type of gen ed requirements specific to a certain major, each one to complement the specific department the major is in
- Augustana could offer two degree types: one where they have demonstrated breadth and one where they have not....like the Honors tract. Students either receive a liberal arts degree or the liberal arts degree with general education emphasis.
- Committee consensus that if breadth was taken away from the curriculum, there would be major resistance from the faculty
- Streamline the learning perspectives and suffixes requirement, so that suffixes become part of LPs, making just one checklist. If we removed the LPs, could still keep I, Q, D, and G to retain diversity
- LSFY 101 and 102 are writing courses we need. LSFY 103 duplicates the course we have an LP for; might be possible to shave it off.

AGENDA ITEM V: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski