

## GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

4/21/2010

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Members Present:** Kristin Douglas, Virginia Johnson, Josh Morgan, Ashley Booth, Amanda Beveroth, Randall Hall, Karin Youngberg, Tom Bengtson, Dan Conway, Margaret Farrar, Dan Lee, Allen Bertsche, Anne Earel, and Carrie Hough

**Others Present:** John Delaney and Janene Finley

### AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from the 4/14/10 meeting: 1 - Allen, 2- Carrie APPROVED

### AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Learning Community Approvals

1. LC Approval for Individual Income Tax Learning Community: Income Tax Problems (ACCT314) and VITA Seminar (ACCT444)

Janene and John introduced the learning community and answered questions prior to the motion.

- ACCT314 is a required course for Accounting majors; the VITA program is currently voluntary
- students undergo training and certification in tax preparation before serving members of the community at the Martin Luther King Center by providing free tax services
- thus far, our students have only volunteered during the winter term (when ACCT314 is offered); the LC addition would enable the students to continue providing tax services into winter term, when the service is most needed
- in addition to a coordinator at the MLK Center, students also work closely with a representative from the Center for Economic Progress (which sets up the VITA sites, provides software, files the completed forms, etc.)
- in the past, students have learned from this experience that preparing one tax return in class is far different from interacting with real clients; some learn that they love the one-on-one interaction, while others decide they might be better suited for other aspects of accounting
- VITA has not had a reflection piece in the past, but one has been included in the 1-credit course to encourage reflective thinking
- making VITA part of an LC (not just voluntary) will enable the MLK Center to receive more help

Janene and John left before the motion.

Motion to approve ACCT314 and ACCT444 as a Learning Community: 1 - Tom, 2 - Allen

Discussion:

Concerns were raised that both courses are labeled ACCT. Intradepartmental LCs was model that was vetoed by the faculty in the fall. The problem is that there is no specific service learning course designation; it has to “live” somewhere, and this course happens to “live” in ACCT. (4/27/10 Added for clarification purposes-there is a Service Learning internship option that could be housed in Accounting either as INTR-ACCT-Lxx or ACCT-INTR-Lxx. KD)

Is there a clear 2<sup>nd</sup> person supervising/teaching as part of the service learning component? Yes, there is someone at the MLK Center with whom they interact regularly, as well as the rep from the Center for Economic Progress, but it's unclear if they evaluate student work.

This LC will only have accounting students taking accounting classes; is that a problem? It's not ideal, but there's nothing in our documentation that precludes it; in fact, it's similar to the ENGL/EDUC LC passed last year.

Could we ask the community leader to explore the angle of who the clients are, their background, and why they might benefit from this service? In fact, the proposal should be more explicit about the role(s) performed by the service coordinator.

There was some discussion of incorporating the idea of civic responsibility into our working service learning definition.

Motion to table the vote for this LC: 1 - Tom, 2 - Randall APPROVED

2. Zen and Archery: Archery (HEPE 121-02) and Religions of East Asia (RELG365-02)

Motion to approve HEPE121-02 and RELG365-02 as Learning Community: 1 – Virginia, 2 – Allen

Discussion:

Does the fact that these two courses will be offered as a learning community seem to affect the way each will be taught? (For example, Zen archery is quite different from Western archery; will that be addressed?)

The connection between the two courses should be addressed more in the syllabus, particularly the HEPE course.

Motion to table the vote for this LC: 1 - Allen, 2 - Carrie APPROVED (one “nay” vote)

- B. Perspective on the Arts Approval: Lighting and Sound Design (THEA315)

Motion to approve THEA315 for a PA: 1 - Virginia, 2 - Randall

Discussion:

Are the objectives of the course too practical? I.e., too much focus on technical aspects and not enough focus on using lighting to enhance the artistry of a production?

There was concern that the course does not adequately address some of the elements on the PA approval form, namely #2 (“include exposure to primary materials or performances”) and #4 (“examine questions involving the relationship between human experience and artistic inspiration”).

Motion to table the vote for this PA: 1 - Tom, 2 - Dan C. APPROVED

- C. Update on Academic Affairs

No update.

**AGENDA ITEM III: OLD BUSINESS**

Kristin asked if the subcommittees working on materials for the fall faculty retreat had been meeting and were making progress.

**AGENDA ITEM IV: ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements.

**AGENDA ITEM V: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. by consensus.

--Respectfully submitted by Anne Earel