

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
5/12/2010
Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Members present: Anne Earel, Kristin Douglas, Alli Haskil, Carrie Hough; Anne Earel, Dan Lee, Ashley, Allen Bertsche, Amanda; Randall Hall; Josh Morgan; Tom Bengston; and Virginia Johnson.

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes from the 5/5/10 meeting; 1-Josh; 2- Virginia APPROVED

AGENDA ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

A. Learning Community Approval: Rome Past and Present: Faiths in Dialogue (RELG371) & Topography of Rome (CLAS220)- Lee & Kramer

Presentation by Dr. Kramer:

Emil's element of the LC will provide a background for the city and will examine regions of the city; there will be a focus development of each area across history. Dan and Emil have worked on connecting the courses. Emil's part of the LC will involve students examining the transformation of the city from a Roman city to a Christian city.

Questions/clarifications:

Will Dan's course be taught throughout the spring term?

Answer: yes; 4 hrs/week of seat time all 10 weeks of the term

How will newly added assignments be reconfigured into the revised syllabus for the shared assignment?

Answer: Still working out how to organize the presentations (considering a Sat. symposium); instructors will confer about grades for shared assignments

Could you explain the rationale for the text for the 1 credit course?

Response: Because this is a 1 credit class the decision was to use the most scholarly guidebook available. Additionally two shared readings have been added- they pertain to early Christianity in Rome and tie with the places that Emil will talk about his course.

What is the plan for addressing the common readings?

That has not been worked out yet. Emil assumes that the readings will be introduced as they will be appropriate for the part of the city being discussed; in Dan's course the readings will be addressed early in the term.

Motion to untable this LC proposal; 1-Amanda; 2- Josh APPROVED

Motion to approve Rome Past and Present for an LC; 1- Virginia; 2- Randall APPROVED

Discussion:

The committee's approval process has improved the quality of this proposal.

B. Learning Community Approval: Individual Income Tax Learning Community: Income Tax Problems (ACT314) VITA Seminar (ACCT 444)- Finley

Motion to untable this item; 1- Virginia; 2-Randall APPROVED

Motion to approve Individual Income Tax Learning Community for an LC; 1- Tom; 2- Ashley APPROVED

Discussion:

The instructors responded appropriately to our concerns.

AGENDA ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS

A. A place for the art collection in LSFY- Cathy Goebel

Cathy Goebel presented a brief review of the timeline of the past 6 years regarding the use of the AGES reader. Cathy this year alone gave 6 invited lectures about the art collection's role in our gen ed program. That said, Augustana faculty do not seem to have a clear vision of how we want to incorporate the art collection into our AGES program. We are approaching the third year in a three year commitment to use the book. At a point on our campus when we are reconsidering our gen ed program, it makes sense to think about how we want to move forward with using or not using the Reader.

Merits of the catalogue/art collection:

- Opportunity for comparing and contrasting- a key skill in the AGES skills matrix
- Opportunity for first year students to publish their work
- Opportunity to showcase faculty members' work
- Flexible content to apply to individual course content
- It offers a format that is appealing for the current generations' preference for visual media
- It is used by the College for Development and outreach purposes—an example of being “Authentically Augustana”
- It helps to reinforce the sequential element of some of our AGES courses, particularly the winter term LSFY courses

Comments and questions from committee members:

Even as we have decreased common elements in our courses, the catalog has proven to be helpful.

It is helpful to take students to the gallery as a source of engagement. It was exciting to see the students engage with the artwork.

The visual engages our students in a comfortable way; even in our first term courses visual evidence provides a nice analogy for primary vs secondary texts and the use of evidence, etc.

It is essential to retain this Reader in some form in our first year sequence. If anything, it would challenge our credibility in the academic community to dismiss something that so many others find to be a valuable approach.

If we want Cathy's continued help, we should give her much more planning time. As we redesign our LSFY program we should keep this in mind.

B. Update from Academic Affairs

No report today.

AGENDA ITEM IV: ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Subcommittee information for the fall retreat report is due to Kristin by June 1, 2010.

B. 2010-2011 General Education Committee will convene during finals week to pick a representative for the Curriculum/Calendar taskforce. Time and place TBD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.