

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 21, 2011  
Evald 305**

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

**Members Present:** John Bagnuolo, Lendol Calder, Margaret Farrar, Meg Gillette, Rick Jaeschke, Virginia Johnson, Brian Katz, Jason Koontz, John Pfautz, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Fred Whiteside, Xiaowen Zhang

**Guests Present:** Mary Koski

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion-Katz, Second-Jaeschke**

**“To approve the September 7, 2011 minutes of the General Education Committee meeting.”**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**LEARNING COMMUNITY PROPOSAL**

**Motion-Koontz, Second-Katz**

**“To approve for a learning community:**

**The Berlin Term Learning Community**

**HIST 315: Modern Germany [Ellis]**

**PHIL 341: Phenomenology and Existentialism [Storl]**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**SUFFIX PROPOSAL**

**Motion-Katz, Second-Koontz**

**“To approve a “G” suffix for ANTH 330: Anthropology of Ireland.”**

Discussion: The committee felt the proposal answers the depth of information about other cultures.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION ON 6/35**

Margaret Farrar handed out a “Current Working Model: 35 courses + PE” worksheet to give the Gen Ed committee a sense of the kind of decisions that need to be made. She explained that the credit hour issue is a problem. The Department of Education and the Higher Learning Commission are sensitive about time associated with credit hour, which makes the vote the faculty approved of making all courses 4 credits a problem. It would add a lot of time every day and week in order for the College to meet the DOE and HLC’s definition, and would be untenable for us to do. The two Student Learning Groups are considering making all courses 3.5 credits, which would add time to each course and does not mess up the schedule and it leaves us room to argue that more out-of-class work is assigned for courses.

Margaret went on to say that majors are not making decisions until they hear from Gen Ed, which puts pressure on the Gen Ed committee. The assumptions on her form are based on conversations going on with 6/35. This model has students graduating with 35 courses plus PE. One-third of 35 courses is 11 2/3 courses and Margaret hopes that can be rounded up; however, departments will be adamant that Gen Ed not take up more than they are allowed.

Brian Katz said that his division believes courses should not get “I” unless students touch things. Margaret said that a discussion might be had about what we mean by “I”.

Margaret suggested that Gen Ed perhaps ask majors that one of their supporting courses be some sort of general education course. Will the Gen Ed committee get pushback on this? She feels we would have to change a fundamental component of general education now--either the structure of LSFY or the elimination of learning communities in order to make this mathematically palatable to departments.

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson suggested

- Double-dipping. Making sure LP is taken with a LC
- Having only 5 LPs and the LC had an area that the LPs were not in

Margaret said this would require a lot of forethought and we would have to have enough courses for them to be cognizant of student demand.

Virginia Johnson suggested asking majors to do a “D” or “G” as a matter of priority of the College. Are all majors able to do that? Brian Katz said very difficult for Math. Margaret Farrar added that Math is a good example. If they can offer something general education with a “Q”, that is good. If we can ask departments to have some part of their required curriculum be either LP, Q, D, G, or LC, that gets us to 12 (close to 11.67).

Rowen suggested that it would be good to provide models of maximum demand on students time and minimum demand on students time. Margaret believes this was done in 2007. If we have a max between 11 and 12 that is what we want.

Margaret encouraged the committee to figure out the things that can be agreed on and that people are certain about. Then talk about and devote time to things that are sticky points. Rowen asked each member to identify what they think under Scenario B is definitely something we should keep, and conversely, things that can go.

#### **AGENDA ITEM V: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski  
Academic Affairs