

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2011
Evald 305**

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

Members Present: Anne Earel, Meg Gillette, Patrick Howell, 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 14 and 21, 2011 minutes of the General Education Committee meetings.”
MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

The committee was polled to see if the meeting time for Gen Ed meetings could be changed to 3:45 until the end of fall term, and there was no objection. Next week’s meeting will therefore begin at 3:45 PM.

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson briefed the committee of a steering report from the curriculum reform group. The steering committee will recommend a 3.5 credit model be adopted instead of the 4 credit, 6/35 model passed by the faculty. This is being proposed because the Higher Learning Commission and Dept. of Education would require much more seat time with 4 credits per course, an additional 75 minutes a week to our current seat time. Our trimester calendar makes this change extremely difficult to accommodate. If credits were 3.5, classes on M-W-F would have five additional minutes, and T-TH classes would have ten additional minutes. Joe McDowell stated his belief that the 6/35 committee proved that statement to be untrue and suggested Ellen Hay or Steve Klien be consulted to review their recommendation for 4 credits..

LEARNING PERSPECTIVES APPROVAL

Motion-McDowell, Second-Pfautz

“To approve a “PS” for ANTH 330: Anthropology of Ireland [Kaul].”

MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON LEARNING PERSPECTIVES & LSFY

The discussion began with a motion.

Motion-Pfautz, Second-Jaeschke

“To consider the following General Education requirement/alignment:

- 1. Keep all 6 LPs**
- 2. Keep the “D” and “G” suffixes**
- 3. Keep LSFY 101 and 102 (encouraging LPs to emphasize writing, reading, oral communication, and information literacy)**

4. Create a category “Applied Learning” which can be fulfilled by taking an LC, doing service learning or an internship, or international study.”

Discussion:

Virginia Johnson spoke against reducing LSFY to two courses because evidence exists that LSFY is having a positive impact on our students. Virginia distributed data from Mark Salisbury and data of her own that shows evidence of this. Students are making gains and are doing well in LSFY. LSFY addresses the needs of first-year students and creates solid underpinning for the rest of their careers. Reducing the program will result in a loss of effectiveness. Gen Ed does not have assessment data on learning perspectives; it is not known if they have a positive impact on student learning, and the data on learning communities suggests that they are less than successful.

Several ideas discussed including the following:

- LSFY courses could apply for learning perspectives.
- LSFY 103 being the LP of choice which will absorb matrix of 103 making it equivalent of 103
- Attaching a D or G to LSFY 103 (As long as the first-year students have dedicated courses that are skill heavy)
- Offer choice between a learning community and learning perspectives.
- Eliminating the “Q” or having some “Q” test-out option. Some favor was expressed in keeping base competency in learning quantitative data and some form of literacy (staffing concerns?)

After discussion, **John Pfautz withdrew his motion. Second was also withdrawn by Rick Jaeschke.**

The committee reached consensus with the following:

2 courses: 1 Learning Community

6 courses: 6 learning perspectives (one that carries a “D”, one that carries a “G”, one from Christian Traditions, one LSFY 103*)

2 courses: 2 LSFY (plus LSFY above that is also an LP)

1 course: “Q” (being discussed)

*This would entail orientation for faculty who have not taught in the LSFY program previously to ensure LSFY skills matrix dispositions be taught in LSFY 103.

Gen Ed would probably recommend all D’s and G’s also carry LP’s (most already do)

TOTAL 11 COURSES

Rowen Schussheim-Anderson reported that the results of the faculty survey should be available by the next meeting. She asked the committee members to talk to their constituents about areas of concern for their divisions.

NEXT MEETING

The next General Education Committee meeting is October 5, 2011 **at 3:45 PM** in Evald 305.

AGENDA ITEM V: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski
Academic Affairs