

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 29, 2008  
Old Main 128**

**Members Present:** Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Randall Hall, Virginia Johnson, Mary Koski, Emil Kramer, Nancy Loitz, Joe McDowell, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Steve Warren, Fred Whiteside

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

**AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion-** McDowell, **Second-**Bertsche **APPROVED**

**“To approve the minutes of the October 22, 2008 General Education Committee meeting as presented.”**

**AGENDA ITEM II- NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Learning Perspectives / Suffix Approval Requests:**

- **HIST 375 – West Africa, Past and Present: Comparative History and Memory (PP, G)**

**Motion-**McDowell, **Second-**Schussheim-Anderson **APPROVED**

**“To approve HIST 375-West Africa, Past and Present: Comparative History and Memory for a PP and a G as presented.”**

- **ENGL 441 – Senior Seminar: Works of Richard Wright for a D**

**Motion-**McDowell, **Second-**Johnson **APPROVED**

**“To approve ENGL 441-Senior Seminar: Works of Richard Wright for a D as presented.”**

It was mentioned that ENGL 441 is used under different course names from time to time. Because Datatel cannot differentiate between different courses with the same number, this particular course will need to have a distinct number such as ENGL 441-D. Nancy will work with Liesl Fowler and the department to remedy this.

**B. Holden Learning Community Proposal for Winter 2009-2010: A Journey Toward Community     **TABLED****

The option of approving just the Holden proposal presented, or the option of making a recommendation that all Holden proposals be automatically approved as a learning community, just as international terms are, was offered.

The committee felt that in the proposal before them, the courses offered are so similar that it's hard to support them as a learning community. A learning community should consist of at least two courses from different disciplines linked by a common theme or common question and

should illustrate connections and contrasts between disciplines and encourage thinking about human problems and issues from different perspectives. It was felt the two literature classes are simply too alike, the readings are all written by American authors. It was noted, however, that there is a theatre course included, which isn't a literature course. The committee also questioned the relevance for holding this learning community at Holden. How are the teachings related to an experience at Holden? The committee was encouraged to look at the proposal as if it were an on-campus LC...would they approve it them? Most members felt that, no, they would not.

Since the committee could not reach a consensus, it was suggested to table this matter until after the faculty forum on November 20<sup>th</sup>, where the topic of the Evergreen Learning Community proposal will be discussed. This way we can see how the faculty views the definition of a learning community. If the recommendations for learning communities from the Evergreen committee pass the faculty vote, then the Evergreen team will need to visit with Gen Ed and a new learning community definition and approval form will need to be generated.

### **AGENDA ITEM II- OLD BUSINESS**

Honors Program as Learning Community – PH for HONR 220

Relevant to the earlier conversations of how students in the Honors program have fewer credits to take than non-Honors track students.....and the conversation that non-Honors track students end up often times double dipping, resulting in a reduction in number of credits, thus balancing the scale of inequity between the programs, Nancy brought up a thought which was not discussed in these earlier conversations. HONR 220 has a PH attached to it. Does this bring the inequity issue back into play? The committee felt that it does not. This discussion will then continue at the November 20<sup>th</sup> faculty forum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski