

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

12/9/2009

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:58 PM.

Members present: Tom Bengtson, Joe McDowell, Kristin Douglas, Josh Morgan, Randall Hall, Mariano Magalhaes, Alli Haskill, Allen Bertsche, Fred Whiteside, Margaret Farrar, Amanda Beveroth

AGENDA ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve minutes from the 11/18/09 meeting; 1- Josh, 2- Mariano APPROVED

To approve minutes from the 12/2/09 meeting; 1- Tom; 2- Allen APPROVED

Discussion:

Kristin clarified an item discussed in the 12/2/09 minutes regarding the possibility of bundling existing courses to be submitted for D and G “bundles.”

A. AGENDA ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS

Kristin explained that anything submitted to EPC after next Tue. (such as the proposals below) would be approved on a one year only basis because of EPC and Senate deadline concerns.

A. LSFY103 approval: Latin/o Music, Migration, and Identity- Masterson-Algar

Motion to approve: 2- Mariano; 2- Randall APPROVED

Discussion:

Allen worked with Araceli to shorten the title, balance content with skills development (i.e., days devoted specifically to using “They Say/I Say”), adding a list of musical selections, and limiting reading assignments to appx. 30 pages per day. Allen pointed out that the proposal questions were not revised, however, the syllabus was updated to reflect the new revisions.

Kristin: Araceli did a nice job addressing our specific concerns.

B. LSFY 103 approval: Grey Matters: Thinking Beyond Black and White- Myers

Motion to approve: 1- Mariano; 2- Allen APPROVED

Discussion:

Kristin: Recall that the original syllabus was very sparse and Margaret and Alli were not consulted in the course proposal development process.

A discussion of course grading centered around the fact that 40% of the grade is participation, even though there is a system in place for encouraging participation, this seems challenging. Also, the paper should be 35-40% in LSFY 103- in this course it is only 30%. It was suggested that students should be made aware in the description that such a substantial portion of the course is devoted to participation.

C. LSFY 103 approval: Update on Crime and Social Commentary in Steig Larsson's "Millenium" Trilogy- Lindgren

Motion to approve 1- Joe; 2- Tom APPROVED

Discussion:

Kristin reported that Dr. Lindgren did not have time this week to make all recommended revisions to her proposal.

Several members pointed out that although the content is unlike that which may be found in other literature courses that Dr. Lindgren is knowledgeable about her content area and has taken the time to meet with the LSFY 103 cohort and the group was confident that the recommended course revisions would be made before the course will be taught in the spring.

AGENDA ITEM I: NEW BUSINESS

B. Service learning discussion (part of Evergreen II)

Margaret: Currently, 1 credit should equal approximately 40 hours of service per term (based on current internship/externship conventions).

A possible concern is that there may be logistical challenges in collaborating with service partners if there is a heavy hourly requirement for each student, particularly in a course with heavy enrollment.

Margaret: Could there be an option that is parallel with existing externship offerings that includes both substantial service learning (e.g., 25 hours per term but not necessarily as high as 40) and content—have service learning be an integral part of an academic course.

Margaret: Are there other specific requirements we need to add to this draft? A final reflective assignment? Or is the experience itself sufficient credit-worthy?

Kristin: It would be good for students to reflect on how their community engagement enhanced their learning.

Joe: The draft already has language that addresses that concern “substantive reflection on how...”

Josh: Some students may need explicit help in engaging in meaningful reflection.

C. Update from Academic Affairs

Margaret provided a Teagle III overview and handout. Three 12-credit pilot immersion terms will be offered next year: Water Systems; Sustainability; and Neuroscience. Margaret has asked for participating faculty members to submit proposals to gen ed by week 8 of winter term.

Questions that will need to be addressed, among others:

How will faculty justify 12 credits of student time?

How much time will students be required to be in class (e.g., 3, 4, or 5 days per week)?

**How are faculty going to make student learning visible in these courses? How will learning outcomes be shared with students and/or with the campus at large?

Several of these courses will likely carry a suffix. A new question to consider is can these courses satisfy additional gen ed requirements in addition to LPs?

Gen ed should discuss its expectations prior to these instructors submitting their proposals.

Tom and Joe: Perhaps this could satisfy 3 gen ed LP requirements. Joe- perhaps still require 1 course in each of the 6 LPs but then not require the 3 additional courses in lieu of this 12 credit LC.

Josh initially was concerned that this approach would pigeonhole students- it may appeal only to students who are invested in the disciplines of the instructors. However, benefits may be limited because enrolled students likely would not represent a variety of majors/perspectives. Also, a concern about credit overloading was expressed.

Joe: If the courses have discipline-specific prerequisites, they may be limiting for nonmajors.

Allen: This pilot could go two ways: these LCs could be offered primarily to majors or they could be targeted

specifically to nonmajors.

Josh, Kristin, and Margaret: We could look at peer institutions' models for guidance.

Fred previewed an idea he has for revising the LS program (discussion to be continued).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Our next meeting will be 12/16/09.