

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REVISED MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2009
Old Main 128**

Members Present: Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Virginia Johnson, Mary Koski, Emil Kramer, Dan Lee, Joe McDowell, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Karin Youngberg, Fred Whiteside
Guest Present: Michael Nolan

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Schussheim-Anderson, Second-McDowell APPROVED

“To approve the minutes of the March 11, 2009 General Education Committee meeting as presented.”

Motion-Kramer, Second-Earel APPROVED

“To approve the minutes of the February 11, 2009 General Education Committee meeting as presented.”

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

A. Suffix/LC Approvals

1. **Motion-Kramer, Second-Lee APPROVED**

“To approve a Q suffix for MATH 230: Discrete Mathematics as presented.”

2. A discussion began about having learning community courses that were comprised of required courses in the major and the fairness of such. It was thought that many learning communities were made up of one class that was required in the major. The committee thought it might be helpful in Margaret Farrar kept her eyes on this and kept statistics of it in the future. The committee also thought that it would be prudent to revisit the new learning community guidelines (Evergreen proposal) and to clarify exactly what is expected from learning communities.

Motion-Schussheim-Anderson, Second-Kramer APPROVED

“To approve Learning Community: Marketing in a Global Economy: Ethical and Practical Challenges (BUSN 321 / RELG 327) as presented.”

B. Committee Procedures

1. Duties of faculty chair

It was decided that the faculty chair would

- Organize meetings
- Set agenda (committee members may make suggestion for agenda items)
- Maintain flow of meetings
- Set goals in cooperation with the entire committee

2. Duties of Representative from Academic Affairs

- The General Education Committee decides on issues that affect the General Education curriculum.

- Margaret Farrar administers the General Education program.

C. Posting of Final Exam Schedule

The committee members felt it would be beneficial to the entire campus if the final examination schedule was posted in a conspicuous place 10 days prior to finals week on the Augustana website (perhaps the opening page?), and also to be added to the Academic Calendar. In consultation with Liesl Fowler and Jeff Abernathy, Kristen will ask IT if this is something that can be done on our website. It was also noted that if the dates of the exams could be included on the Final Examination Schedule, in addition to the days of the week (i.e., Monday, May 18, 2009) it would be a friendlier chart to look at.

AGENDA ITEM III – OLD BUSINESS

A. What Do We Want To Know?

- Writing skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Reading skills
- Information literacy skills
- Oral communication
- Interdisciplinary connections
- Awareness of diverse views
- Measure how LP functions as compared to others who teach the same LPs
- What's a liberal arts education?
- What does a liberal arts education mean?
- Are specific LPs fulfilling their charge?
- Are LCs fulfilling their charge?
- Are suffixes fulfilling their charge?
- Interface SI with liberal arts (Gen Ed)
- Honor code (writing skills / research skills)
- Interfacing Gen Ed program with Convocation series
- Use of common readings (LSFY)
- All common elements (LSFY)
- Effectiveness of online registration (problems)
- What is said during tours
- How is Augie sold in visits
- How effective are faculty in discussing liberal arts
- How Gen Ed connects with co-curriculars and extra-curriculars
- Civic engagement (citizens as consumers)
- Does Gen Ed keep students from closing doors, does it open doors?
- Do Honors sections meet Gen Ed goals?

Next week the committee will group or cluster these together. Mike Nolan suggesting using groups as: Knowledge / Skills / Dispositions (attitudes)

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski