

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2009
Evald 113**

Members Present: Allen Bertsche, Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Margaret Farrar, Randall Hall, Virginia Johnson, Mary Koski, Emil Kramer, Dan Lee, Mariano Magalhães, Joe McDowell, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Karin Youngberg

Guest Present: Michael Nolan

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion-Kramer, Second-McDowell APPROVED

“To approve the minutes of the March 18, 2009 General Education Committee meeting as amended.”

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

A. Suffix/LP Approvals: HIST 177 World History Since 1500: the Age of Globalization for a PP and a G

Motion-Magalhães, Second-Allen APPROVED

“To approve a PP and G for HIST 177: World History Since 1500: The Age of Globalization as presented.”

B. Committee Structure

After realizing that the Librarian assigned to the General Education committee did not have voting rights, the committee felt that all members of the General Education Committee should have voting rights. The following motion was unanimously approved:

Motion-Lee, Second-Kramer APPROVED

“To recommend to the Nominations and Rules Committee to change the General Education Committee description to give voting rights to the Librarian position assigned to the General Education Committee.”

It was also brought to the committee’s attention that when it appointed a faculty chair, that the appropriate approval process was not followed by the General Education Committee. Therefore, the committee voted to bring before Nomination and Rules, its desire to appoint a faculty member as chair of the General Education Committee. As a faculty member the chair could vote, however, it was suggested by a member that the faculty chair not vote unless there is a tie vote.

Motion-McDowell, Second-Kramer APPROVED

“To recommend to the Nominations and Rules Committee to change the General Education Committee description to allow for a tenured faculty member who has voting rights to serve as chair of the committee for a one-year term.”

C. Update from Academic Affairs

1. G and D Suffix

The Registrar's office would like clarification whether or not the new G and D Suffix Definitions would be retroactive or effective as of the approval date of February 12, 2009. The Gen Ed committee agreed that the intention was to make it effective as of the date of approval, and that once approved, Gen Ed would work together with the instructors to re-evaluate whether or not a course would change as a result of the new definitions. In the case they would, it seemed reasonable to the committee to ask the instructors to resubmit a suffix approval request. The Gen Ed committee would like Margaret Farrar's help in identifying G and D suffixed courses that need evaluated.

2. Course Approval: The Role of the General Education Committee, and EPC

The topic of general frustration in the course approval process was brought up. Margaret Farrar tried to find a college policy about course approval policies and could find none. She feels that at the least, a communication about the course approval flow process to the faculty body would be in order. The committee agrees.

It was discussed that a suffix approval request passed by Gen Ed last week was not approved at the subsequent EPC meeting. This led to a discussion about the General Education Committee's role. A committee member met with Jeff Abernathy last week who confirmed that the Educational Policies Committee, indeed, did vote on all approved general education approval requests. The approval of EPC is needed before these proposals are presented to Faculty Senate. Several General Education Committee members questioned, therefore, the validity or usefulness of their role in the approval process. Arguments were made both in favor and opposing the two-committee approval process. Some felt that two committees in succession doing rigorous review increased the likelihood of good decisions being made; a check-and-balance method. Others felt that it was work being doubled, and a process that Gen Ed didn't need to do if someone else was doing it anyway.

The committee asked Margaret Farrar if she would address this issue with Jeff Abernathy and the Educational Policies Committee for feedback. Margaret agreed to bring this to Jeff's attention. She also noted that the rules of faculty governance encourages all committees to re-examine what they do, as time spent on committee work should be time well spent.

D. International Studies Committee Motion to Senate

A motion is currently on the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting agenda asking for a G suffix to all Spring Term 2009 Study Abroad programs. Kristin asked the Gen Ed committee if it should be recommended to Kim Tunnicliff to remove this from the Faculty Senate meeting agenda, as G suffixes are given to courses, not to programs. The committee asked Kristin to email Kim Tunnicliff to have the item removed.

E. Policy Matter

Jeff Abernathy requested that the General Education Committee make a recommendation on the policy matter of LS courses being accepted toward the major requirements. This is being brought about as a result of a senior philosophy major student's request to count six credits of LS courses towards her major.

Motion-Allen, Second-Schusheim-Anderson RECOMMENDATION TO EPC & AS&D
"To recommend to AS&D and EPC that no exceptions be made to allow students to count their first-year LS courses towards their major requirements."

AGENDA ITEM III – OLD BUSINESS

Assessment was not discussed as the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski