

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 29, 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, Fred Whiteside, Karin Youngberg

**Guests Present:** Jeff Coussens, Meg Gillette, Alli Haskill

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

**AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The April 15, 2009 meeting minutes were not available and will be put on the May 6, 2009 agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Learning Perspectives and Suffix Approvals**

1. THEA 201/301 (PH) – This item was removed from the agenda as Division has not approved this course yet.

2. ENGL 354 (PL)

**Motion-Magalhães, Second-Kramer APPROVED**

**“To approve a PL for ENGL 354: Empire and Outsiders as presented.”**

3. PHIL 312 (PS, Q)

It was asked if there are enough quantitative requirements to satisfy a Q in this course. The majority of the committee said yes.

**Motion-Kramer, Second-Johnson APPROVED**

**“To approve a PS and Q for PHIL 312: Decision and Game Theory as presented.”**

4. THEA 341 (G)

It was asked why a G was being requested for this course. Most specific to the G suffix is the survey of Eastern traditions.

**Motion-Earel, Second-Lee APPROVED**

**“To approve a G suffix for THEA 341: Classical Ages of Theatre as presented.”**

**B. Learning Community Approvals**

**Motion-McDowell, Second-Magalhães APPROVED**

**“To approve as a Learning Community: Lives and Histories of African Women [ Hough/Cleveland], HIST 147 and ANTH 352 as presented.”**

## **AGENDA ITEM III – OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Role of Augie Reads Selection in LSFY 102 and LSFY 103**

The committee tried to answer the following questions:

Why was book chosen?

What are the main themes?

How will the book be used over the summer? During LSFY 101? During Orientation?

What is the process of continue use in LSFY 102 and 103?

Pros and Cons of continued use in LSFY 102 and 103.

The Augie reads committee chose the book because they found it had many themes relative to first year students: finding a vocation, doing service in the world, visiting different places in the world, family relationships and dynamics, significant reflection, growing as a person; a lot going on in the book, and very current. They also said that the entire book does not have to be read in order to use it in teaching.

Summer use of the Augie Reads book will principally be used during the Fall Connection discussion groups. The committee thought it a very good idea to stress to students the importance of reading their Augie Reads book before Fall Connection—introducing it as an academic component of orientation. The committee felt that the best shot at high compliance is at this point of time in the students' education.

Meg Gillette commented that the commitment for using the Augie Reads book in LSFY 101 has been to use the text in a meaningful way, by paying close attention to the text, assigning text readings, paper assignments, etc.

The main discussion about Augie Reads in LSFY 102 and LSFY 103 was centered on the fact that it is difficult to keep using the Augie reads book into LSFY 102 and LSFY 103. The faculty find it harder and harder to make reference to it. It would be easier if there was a specific focus that each course was assigned. The faculty are already overloaded in course content, and are struggling to fit Augie Reads in. Another comment was that if Augie Reads is supposed to be a requirement in LSFY 102 and 103, but if not all faculty are using it (which seems to hold true), then it sends a mixed message to students.

The committee members unanimously recommend that Augie Reads might be better utilized as a “touchstone”, and not be a requirement of LSFY 102 and LSFY 103.

### **B. General Education Retreat**

Margaret reported that as soon as the new members of the General Education Committee are made, they will receive an invitation to attend the General Education Retreat on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee informed Margaret that a power point presentation, a sample plan of assessment for next year, and a copy of the document Mike Nolan created for assessment would be helpful tools in facilitating the retreat.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski