

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 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, Karin Youngberg

The meeting came to order at 4:30 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

“To approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 General Education Committee meeting as amended.”

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

A. LP, Suffix, and LC Approvals

1. ASP 101 (PP, G)

Motion-Lee, **Second-**Magalhães

“To approve ASP 101: Introduction to Africana Studies for a PP and a G as presented.”

The committee expressed concern about approving a PP attached to this course if in the future an instructor other than Todd Cleveland is teaching the course using a different syllabus. Unanimous support of the PP was given as long as the content of the syllabus remain unchanged. Kristin Douglas was asked to clarify with Todd Cleveland if he will be the only instructor for this course, and to bring that information back to the committee for a vote on the PP learning perspective.

The committee then amended the original motion as follows:

Motion-Lee, **Second-**Magalhães

“To approve ASP 101: Introduction to Africana Studies for a G suffix.” APPROVED

2 and 3. MUSC 343 (PA, D) and Learning Community Approval

Motion-Kramer, **Second-**McDowell **APPROVED**

“To approve MUSC 343 for a PA and D, and to approve Learning Community: Stories and Soundscapes: Literature, Music and Life Experience: Empire and Outsiders as presented.”

4. Learning Community Approval: The American Presidency in Times of Crises: Politics and Rhetoric

Motion-Magalhães, **Second-**Youngberg

“To approve as a Learning Community: The American Presidency in Times of Crises: Politics and Rhetoric (SPCM 250 and POLS 338) as presented.”

The committee was very supportive of this proposed learning community; however, they were concerned that the syllabi were not updated and were hoping to see how the content of the syllabi would be altered in the individual classes for the purposes of the learning community. The committee decided to table this item and to immediately request updated content information that the committee can review and vote on electronically prior to the next EPC Meeting.

Motion-Lee, Second-McDowell TABLED

“To table the original motion until the General Education Committee receives up-to-date syllabi content information, at which time the committee will vote for approval electronically.”

B. Updates from Academic Affairs

Margaret has been approached by a number of faculty interested in adding track classes into LSFY program much like we have Honors classes now linked over 3 or 4 terms; i.e. a sustainability track and a social justice track, having LS 101, 102, and 103 linked with the same group of students in this track from beginning till end of 1st year, and considering this a General Education track. The General Education Committee would be consulted on how the tracks would be run and Gen Ed would determine how faculty members would apply and be chosen to teach in this track. Students on these tracks would have the same skills matrix linked thematically in terms of content. The Gen Ed committee had mixed feelings on this issue. It was felt that many students would drop out of the program...would this be a problem? The thematic emphasis was also bothersome to some. It was also expressed that the quality of the program as it currently is just fine, and that by adding and changing it may find that some day down the road, you have something that you don't really like. Also, if this was a sequence indoctrinating students to certain beliefs, they would be against it.

A handout of issues needed addressed by the end of the year was passed out. Included were:

- Assessment plan for next year and beyond
- Related: streamlining course approval docs and linking them to assessment
- Including new “tracked” courses into the LS sequence (e.g. Sustainability, Social Justice) and developing process for application.
- Refining what we mean by Learning Communities post-Evergreen document (clarifying for faculty)
- Formalizing statement about Augie Reads, and/or revisiting using the Augie Reads book in LS101
- Formalizing when we'd like LS faculty to reconsider writing manual and They Say/I Say

The committee was asked about a General Education Committee Retreat. They prefer blocking out time during the academic year as opposed to the summer time. Even though several people's term will end this year, Margaret hopes to invite both current and new members to the retreat. A poll about the format of the retreat will be sent out by Margaret and she asked everyone to get back to her regarding their thoughts.

Kristin ended the meeting by asking how the librarian position gets nominated to the General Education Committee. Anne indicated that Connie Ghinazzi polled the librarians, and since Anne expressed an interest, she was nominated. Anne does feel that only reference librarians should be considered. The committee suggested using language such as “The Library Director will appoint”

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Koski