

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2009
Olin 304**

Members Present: Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Randall Hall, Allison Haskill, Dan Lee, Joe McDowell, Lisa Seidlitz, Margaret Farrar, Josh Morgan, and Fred Whiteside; **Members Absent:** Allen Bertsch (foreign term); Emil Kramer (no replacement yet); Karin Youngberg; Mariano Magalhaes

The meeting came to order at 5:03 PM.

AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion- Johnson, **Second-** Morgan **APPROVED**

“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of September 23, 2009.”

AGENDA ITEM II – OLD BUSINESS

A. Learning communities/revision of common components

A few words about timelines: A faculty forum on this topic has been scheduled for 10/29/09 in preparation for a possible vote in November (there is a senate meeting Nov. 19, this is the last senate meeting before the master schedule is prepared in December). Thus, the purpose of this discussion is to draft a proposal for such action. Kristin plans to draft an updated Evergreen document based on today's and future discussions.

Fred wondered if proposed changes, if accepted, would go into effect for this spring. The response was that because the master schedule for this year has already been set, the changes likely would be in effect for the 09/10 academic year.

Regarding common components for LCs, suggestions were made to expand in some areas:

- 1) Co-curricular activities in addition to a more traditional cohort option (e.g., participation in an ensemble paired with a literature course);
- 2) perhaps departments that believe they have (or could have) programs and offerings (e.g., service learning, internships, interdisciplinary coursework) could submit proposals making their cases for why they satisfy LC/ IL criteria- similar to what Ellen Hay proposed in conversations last summer;
- 3) if interdisciplinary majors or minors stay on the list, they would need to apply through an LC approval process

It was suggested that if we require all departments to submit an LC proposal, they may not comply (similar to the SI situation).

Several members pointed out that if we are to include co-curricular offerings, we may need to decrease/be flexible about the minimum credit requirement (e.g., 3.67 for ensembles and a 3 credit course).

It was recommended that contract majors and double majors from different departments be deleted from the list because they do not satisfy the community aspect of LCs.

Some members wondered if Liesl could join us in the future to address our questions about logistical matters.

Kristin reassigned last week's homework for this week, which is to review the common components of the Evergreen draft proposal. She will email an updated draft prior to our next meeting.

B. G suffix clarification.

This topic was skipped this week.

AGENDA ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS

A. Course Approvals

1. LSFY 102 course approval for “From Christianity to Colonialism: African Cultures Under Seige,” Todd Cleveland

Motion- Seidlitz, **Second-** Morgan **APPROVED PROVISIONALLY (needs to include convocations)**

“To approve Todd Cleveland’s LSFY 102 course “From Christianity to Colonialism: African Cultures Under Seige”

Margaret explained that for 3 weeks, Margaret Morse will be filling in for Dr. Cleveland, who had a prior teaching commitment out of the country. Lisa explained that Todd was aware that he needed to include the convocation commonality and has plans to do so.

2. WGS Women’s Writing in Latin America (PL, G)

Motion- Lee, **Second-** Johnson **APPROVED**

The committee members discussed that this noncontroversial proposal included an impressive range of readings and feminist criticism.

B. Update from Academic Affairs

Margaret has been compiling and organizing various assessment instruments and is in the process of identifying what may be applicable for future use in assessing the general education program. Gen ed will focus on this task in winter after the LC discussion has been completed. The document that previously was approved by gen ed to discuss elements of gen ed soon will be presented to faculty senate for approval to be piloted in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alli Haskill