

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 26, 2009  
Olin 304**

**Members Present:** Kristin Douglas, Anne Earel, Randall Hall, Allison Haskill, Virginia Johnson, Emil Kramer, Dan Lee, Joe McDowell, Lisa Seidlitz, and Fred Whiteside

The meeting came to order at 5:00 PM.

**AGENDA ITEM I – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**“To approve the General Education Committee meeting minutes of May 13, 2009.”**

**AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Selection of Committee Secretary**

1. Allison Haskill volunteered to serve as Committee Secretary, and Joe McDowell agreed to fill in for Haskill for 3 weeks in October when Haskill is away on sabbatical work.

**B. LSFY course approval**

1. LSFY 102: From Virgin Land to Environmental Crisis (Leech)

**Motion-Johnson, Second-Kramer (APPROVED-Provisional)**

**“To approve the proposed LSFY 102 course: From Virgin Land to Environmental Crisis.”**

Members observed that the syllabus was missing common elements for the term (i.e., incorporation of the art collection). Kristin Douglas will contact Dr. Leech and ask him to resubmit this and his LSFY 103 proposals and incorporate the common elements for their respective LSFY terms. Kristin will evaluate the revised syllabi and if common elements are sufficiently incorporated, the courses will be considered approved by the Gen Ed Committee.

2. LSFY 103: America Is What It Eats (Leech) (APPROVED-Provisional)

Members observed that the syllabus was missing common elements for the term (i.e., use of “The Visitor” film). Kristin Douglas will contact Dr. Leech and ask him to resubmit this and his LSFY 102 proposals and incorporate the common elements for their respective LSFY terms. Kristin will evaluate the revised syllabi and if common elements are sufficiently incorporated, the courses will be considered approved by the Gen Ed Committee.

3. LSFY 103: Music in Film (Davies) (MOTION TABLED)

Committee members questioned whether this course fits with other LSFY courses. Others suggested that although the proposal may address the overarching theme in that it addresses change, the proposal could be revised to include a more explicit description of how diversity would be addressed (through the film selection or other ways).

### **C. Discussion of faculty retreat data**

Committee members were pleased that overall, the faculty seem to be engaged in the conversation about what to do with AGES and more specifically, the LC component. Upon examination of the retreat feedback, it appears that 1) most departments are against eliminating the LC requirement; 2) the existing LC format may need to be more flexible.

Some members suggested that there is a discrepancy between generally positive sentiments toward the LC program and practical staffing shortfalls. Margaret pointed out that an additional logistic concern is students' ability to fulfill graduation requirements for LCs in the near future. For the next meeting, Liesl Fowler will provide details about exactly how many spaces are needed for prospective graduates.

It was suggested that the course reduction discussion may result in implications that will impact the general education committee. Thus, it would be helpful to have firm commitments on faculty willing AND able to teach in the program to better assess future steps. It was suggested that perhaps adding LP suffixes to LSFY courses perhaps could reduce the AGES load and therefore may be able to free up some faculty members to contribute to LCs. Others suggested that though adding suffixes to LSFY courses may ease students' burden, the actual impact on faculty members' workload is unclear at this point. Further, it was pointed out that some departments will be more affected by such changes than others.

Margaret explained that if we truly want to see LCs remain in their current form, general education committee members will need this year to have serious conversations with divisions and departments.

The possibility of "option 3" (team taught single courses) was discussed. Concerns were raised that it is difficult to divide teaching credit between two faculty members and that it is unlikely that resources are available to facilitate this. Several committee members suggested that the committee may need to do more work explaining integrative learning options to the faculty.

The possibility of creating a flexible revision of the Evergreen document was raised. However, it was explained that even with the passage of the current version of the Evergreen document, our pool of LC offerings was virtually unaffected this year. ~~It also was suggested that when~~

It was observed that some faculty may have reacted out of fear that the LC program would go away and that if other integrative learning options were to be developed, perhaps LC courses that remain on the books would see under enrollment. It also was suggested that many departments reported concerns that flexible and varied integrative learning possibilities may not be equally challenging/rigorous.

It was suggested that next steps for the LC discussion should be discussed at the next general education committee. Margaret and Kristin will provide the committee members with examples of what other peer institutions use for integrative learning options.

### **D. Design a post-retreat faculty survey**

Kristin explained that the committee needs individual survey data to complement the departmental feedback we received from the retreat.

### **E. Prioritize goals for 2009-2010**

Several goals for general education for the upcoming school year were discussed and it was suggested that subcommittees may need to be formed to address the concerns effectively. Specific items to be considered included: 1) LC staffing concerns; 2) continuing the D/G diversity requirement conversation; 3) discussing options for community college transfer students; 4) next steps for AGES assessment; 5) clarifying general education's goals for and selection of Augie Reads each year; 6) revisiting the LSFY writing manual/They Say I Say; 7) responding to faculty feedback from the retreat; 8) developing a consent agenda format for our committee.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alli Haskill