

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REVISED MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2011
Evald 305**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

Members Present: Tom Bengtson, Anne Earel, Mike Egan, Margaret Farrar, Carrie Hough, Patrick Howell, Brian Katz, Jason Koontz, Rowen Schussheim-Anderson, Virginia Johnson, Alli Haskill, Emil Kramer, Lendol Calder

Guest Present:

Approval of Minutes

Motion-Brian K., **Second-**Mike E.

“To approve the minutes of the December 7, 2011 General Education Committee meetings.”

Discussion: No changes were needed.

MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR 12-7-11

Whiteside HEPE Proposal (Lifetime Wellness)

Motion-Emil K., **Second-**Jason K.

“To approve the Lifetime Wellness course as an approved HEPE course.”

Discussion: Brian Katz wondered if this proposed course overlapped with a Biology, health-related course. Jason K. pointed out that the HEPE proposal emphasizes healthy activity, and hence it is sufficiently unique.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussing Integrative Learning

Rowen discussed the possibility of amending the decision made on Dec. 7 that dropped the Integrative Learning (IL) requirement. The language of the amended proposal she is considering is: “To fulfill an Integrative Learning component departments may require majors to take a course in another department/discipline, an internship, an SL, or an LC. Departments that require an LC must participate in a proportionate number of LC's each year.”

Rowen suggested that this might be a way of encouraging the survival of LCs. It was subsequently clarified that the committee had decided last week that IL would no longer be a requirement mandated by the Gen Ed committee. In light of this clarification, Rowen rescinded her proposal.

We discussed the future of IL given that Gen Ed decided last week that it would no longer be a Gen Ed requirement. One understanding is that it would become a departmental responsibility and that accountability would possibly happen via departmental program reviews. The onus would be on the department to demonstrate during their reviews that they are providing their students with purposeful IL experiences. Gen Ed would no longer need to oversee IL experiences or LCs. Gen Ed could provide

guidelines to the program reviewers for determining whether a given department's IL work is satisfactory, but Gen Ed would not be the authority determining whether a learning experience "counts."

Margaret suggested that we re-write the IL motion from December 7 as the language in that motion seemed too brief and failed to capture the nuanced way that the Committee was thinking about the motion.

Carrie suggested that Gen Ed should at the very least provide guidelines to departments regarding what IL might look like.

Alli H. pointed out that our existing understanding of what IL can be extends beyond the departmental realm and into the experience of each individual student. For example, students who go overseas have historically received their IL experience via their travel and not their department.

Margaret asked the committee about how we are thinking about IL...are we thinking of it as a "vertical" experience whereby students engage with IL over the course of their years in a given major or are we thinking about it as a "horizontal" experience that involves more than one discipline or perspective such as traditional LCs, etc.

Lendol pointed out that learning, by definition, must be integrative as it is impossible to truly learn something if the new knowledge is not somehow interwoven with existing knowledge.

Brian K. expressed concerns that if IL is not mandated, then mathematics majors are highly unlikely to have the kind of integrated, liberal arts learning experience that he values.

Rowen reiterated that there is pressure from the Dean for this committee to make its decision regarding IL. Rowen suggested that we table this discussion and attend to the other matters on today's agenda, and simply communicate with the Dean that we are still deliberating on IL but we have made decisions on all other items related to Gen Ed requirements.

Discussing Other Gen Ed Rationales

The Committee agreed that the other rationales (for Q, PN+, etc.) were all satisfactory. Margaret F. pointed out that no rationale was written for Christian Traditions yet, and that she would do that.

Returning to the IL Discussion

Margaret suggested that we hold a Friday conversation or other forum for discussing the future of IL with a larger faculty. The committee agreed that this would be a good course of action.

Approving White LSFY 103 Proposal

Motion-Brian K., **Second**-Anne

"To approve Ryan White's LSFY 103 course proposal, 'Let Your Life Speak: Vocation Throughout the Christian Tradition, Contemporary Psychological Perspectives, and Personal Discernment'"

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Egan
Education Department