

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Hawai'i Hall 208

Attendees: Ron Cambra (OUE), Pete Garrod, Bob Joseph, Sarita Rai, Scott Rowland, Amy Schiffner, Elisabeth Seamon (ASUH), Kiana Shiroma, Carolyn Stephenson (SEC)

GEO support staff: Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa

Excused: Joy Logan, Stacey Roberts, Todd Sammons (GEO)

Absent: Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

- The **February 12, 2014 minutes** were unanimously approved (7-0-0) with one correction. Lisa will also ask guests Debbie Halbert and Monica Stitt-Bergh if they have any corrections/modifications. If so, they will be presented at the next GEC meeting.
- The **April 16, 2013 minutes** were approved by a vote of 2-0-6. Members who were not present at that meeting abstained from voting.

2. Summer 2014 Focus Requests

- The **E Focus request for Sunny Greer's AMST 320** was approved by a vote of 6-1-0.
 - Lisa explained that the proposal was being brought to the GEC because Prof. Greer already has active H, O, and W Focus approval for the course.
 - One member felt that a three-credit course should not be able to carry four Focus designations, and that there should be a minimum-one-credit-per-Focus policy. A three-credit course normally meets three hours a week, which does not seem like enough time to deal seriously with all of the Focus areas. The question of what should be required to be eligible for all Focus areas will be put on a future GEC agenda to be discussed further.
 - The E and O Focus areas have a Hallmark that is related to the number of credits. The percentage of course content (for E) and the percentage of the grade attributed to the Focus area (for O) are related to the number of credits.
 - Many students will want to take a course that fulfills four Focus requirements. One member questioned whether such a course could be taught so that students can actually learn the course material, versus "getting rid of" requirements.
 - Several members felt that the course meets the E Focus Hallmarks, and that the issue of a course fulfilling all four Focus requirements is a separate discussion. It will be put on a future GEC agenda. Lisa will look for other course proposals that have received approval for all four Focus designations in the past.
- The **course-based W Focus request for JOUR 250** was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0. The GEC felt that the proposal was exemplary and could be posted online as a model proposal.
- The **E, O, and W Focus request for Ben Carroll's PACE 429** was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

3. The **Fall 2014 course-based E Focus request for ES/SOC/WS 418** was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0. The GEC felt that this was another good example that could be posted online.

4. Announcements

- **System HAP Committee update** (last meeting: 2/14/14)
Monica Stitt-Bergh from Manoa's Assessment Office was in attendance because she was asked to draw up an assessment plan at last year's meeting. She presented documents for the group to review. Discussion was similar to that of previous meetings, and no decisions were made. Monica's documents will be posted on Lulima for the GEC to view.
- **Quantitative Reasoning (QR) Working Group update** (last meeting: 2/20/14)
 - The working group is made up of seven faculty members including GEC members Scott Rowland and Joy Logan and members of the Foundations Board. Co-Chairs are Monica Stitt-Bergh and Mike Nassir.
 - Manoa does not currently have a quantitative reasoning (QR) requirement; instead, there is the Foundations-Symbolic Reasoning (FS) requirement. FS courses are sometimes quantitative, but not always.
 - Many faculty feel that it is important for the curriculum to include quantitative reasoning. It will also be a requirement of WASC in the next accreditation cycle.
 - The group has a working description of QR from WASC. They believe that a change from FS to FQ will only affect students in majors without a specific math/FS requirement, which is currently about 20% of all majors/students, generally those in Arts & Humanities and the languages. Engineering and all of the sciences require calculus, and most Social Sciences also have statistics and other math requirements.
 - There is a concern about what will happen with the community colleges if/when the change takes place, but it is not the group's kuleana yet.
 - All group members have been assigned tasks: two are looking at definitions of terms (e.g., algebra, geometry), some are looking at how much math is deemed "adequate" by different departments, and Dawne is looking at WASC.
 - There are still many questions. Will quantitative reasoning become a requirement? Will FS be changed to accommodate quantitative reasoning? Will FS become FQ? Will quantitative reasoning be folded into a variety of classes instead of having its own requirement?
 - The group is currently looking at the foundational level, but the issue may not be resolved there. The requirement should be built on in the major according to what is appropriate in that field of study. Kiana raised a concern about having the quantitative reasoning requirement become related to the major, especially if it will be required early on in the students' college career. Such an early major-related requirement could become problematic if/when the students change majors. Dawne said the issue is being looked into. Scott agreed that it would be a lot easier if the requirement stayed in Gen Ed.
 - When students get a UHM diploma, what are the skills/knowledge we expect them to have, regardless of what their major was?
 - Most of the information from the group will be posted on a website that is accessible by the public.

5. The **next GEC meeting** will be held on Wednesday, March 12 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Hawaii Hall 208.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by *Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder*