

General Education Committee
November 13, 2006
Hawai'i Hall 208
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by the chair.

Present: Cristina Bacchilega, Helen Baroni (chair), Richard Bigus, John Engel, Jon Goss, Susan Johnson, Megumi Taniguchi, George Wong.
Ron Cambra (OVCAA), David Chin (SEC), Tom Hilgers (GEO), Ruth Kleinfeld (emeritus), Todd Sammons, Monica Stitt-Bergh (GEO).

Absent: Jan Heu (A&R), Helene Sokugawa (OVCAA).

MINUTES: The minutes and liaison reports of October 30, 2006, were approved as submitted.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Reports

a. WASC Proposal: Distributed 11/8/06 draft of sections on Assessment of General Education and Competencies & Skills (attached). Sections accurately reflect Gen Ed at UHM.
(11/13/06: OVCAA confirmed that this text will be included in the final version.)

b. ITE 343: ITE Department agreed to accept the course description modification proposed by the O Focus Board; thus, the course-based O designation is effective for 3 years, F06-SS09.

2. Follow up on courses

2.a. WS 495 (001): request for 3 Focus designations, S07.

Instructor currently has 2 approved designations, E and W; is requesting O and simultaneously renewing E and W.

Discussion:

-GEC members who reviewed the 3 proposals (E, O, and W) agreed that the criteria for each area had been met.

-This is a special topics course but not an alpha course; hence the topic could change each semester.
GEC has no policy on topics classes.

-GEC policy on 3 Focus designations should be clarified. Current policy says only that GEC reviews requests for more than two designations.

Proposed policy modification: Require request for 3 or more Focus designations to include an integrated syllabus which clearly states the Focus areas, grading policies, and assignments.

-The instructor has met the existing GEC criteria for a class with 3 Focus designations. Any changes in criteria should not apply to the course under consideration.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve WS 495 (001) for 3 Focus designations: E, O, and W. The motion passed unanimously.

At its next meeting, the GEC will continue the discussion on policies for a) topics classes and b) proposals for more than 2 Focus areas.

2.b. ANTH 200 (Stitt-Bergh)

UHM Anthropology Department plans to delete its ANTH 200. System ANTH 200 courses will no longer have an equivalent course at UHM. The department would like system ANTH 200, DS, to articulate as equivalent to ANTH 152, FG.

When Foundations courses were designated, ANTH 200 did not meet the criteria for FG; thus, ANTH 151 and 152 were developed and have FG designations. Some system community colleges offer ANTH 151 and/or 152 and they articulate as FG. System ANTH 200 courses now articulate as DS.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that system ANTH 200 continues to articulate as DS after the termination of UHM's ANTH 200. The motion passed unanimously.

3. GEC Diversification (D) review process

a. *Fall 06 Diversification Renewals: Summary of materials received* was distributed (attached).

Two departments have not yet returned their recommendations.

- GEO recommends that the GEC review 45 of the courses: special topics or internships, interdisciplinary, DA related.

- Procedures for follow up review will be discussed and developed by D subcommittee (Baroni, Bigus, Goss, Stitt-Bergh, Taniguchi).

b. When should other system campuses be notified of need to resolve discrepancies in D designations?

Discussion:

- The number of UHM D designation changes is small.

- UHM D review is over 3 semesters. Should all changes go into effect at the same time?

- Consultation will be by departments across the system so departments should be contacted when each group of semester reviews is completed.

4. Authorization to approve S07 Focus recommendations

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to delegate approving authority for remaining S07 Focus recommendations to Baroni and Hilgers. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Simplification

Hilgers, Cambra, Stitt-Bergh, and the chair of Council of Academic Advisors have been meeting. Hilgers will mention simplification issues with the GEO Advisory group.

It was suggested that the GEC compile a list of actions for the Faculty Senate to act on next spring.

GEC discussion indicated support for:

- delegating approval of ordinary Focus designations to the Focus boards.

- changing rule that states: Diversification courses cannot be from the same department as a student's FG courses. This change would require Faculty Senate approval.

- No parallel limits for other F areas.

- FG exclusionary rule difficult for students to comprehend; problematic in that there is no simple rationale for the rule.

6. Sustainability course designation (Bigus)

Sustainability Studies Certificate description was emailed to GEC (attached).

Discussion:

- This undergraduate certificate is closely modeled after Gen Ed Focus designations and will create confusion with Gen Ed Focus requirements.
- UHM offers 41 certificates in 25 departments; many are interdisciplinary.
- The proposed model could set a bad precedent.
- This certificate should be treated like other interdisciplinary certificates.

Baroni will contact Mary Tiles with GEC concerns and report back on 12/4.

7. Focus course data
Problem continues: departments with the largest number of majors continue to lack enough E & O Focus courses to meet the needs of their majors.
8. Faculty Senate (FS) Task Force on Assessment will meet on Friday, 11/17/06, 2:00 p.m., Haw 208.
Baroni will attend.

WRAP UP

1. Continue discussion at the next meeting: Focus topics courses; proposals for more than 2 Focus areas.
2. D subcommittee meeting–Monday, 11/27.
3. Baroni to discuss the Sustainability Studies Certificate with M. Tiles.
4. Baroni to attend Faculty Senate Task Force on Assessment meeting, Friday, 11/17.

Next GEC meeting: Monday, 12/4/06, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Hawai'i 208.

If you have any agenda items, please email Baroni <hbaroni@hawaii.edu>.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Mueller-Ali, Recorder