

Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, December 2, 2009
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair Scott Rowland.

Present: Ernestine Enomoto, Lynne Higa, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Todd Sammons, Galen Sasaki, Mamoru Sato, Carolyn Stephenson

Ex officio: Garrett Inoue (A&R), Steve Rola (A&R)

Support staff: Tom Hilgers (GEO), Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

Excused: Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Susan Hippensteele (SEC)

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Minutes of November 18, 2009 were approved with one correction:
Action Item #1, Bullet #2 – spell out “CFR” (“Criteria for review”).
2. Vote on course-based ARCH 342 W Focus Proposal.
 - Course was renumbered from 302 in Feb. 2008.
 - GEC voted to approve this course-based proposal on the contingency that the department must explicitly include the additional emailed information into the master syllabus.
Vote: 6 yes, 1 opposed, 1 abstained.
 - Discussion ensued re possible changes to course-based proposal forms in the near future
 - Ask for W proposers to complete W Focus chart.
3. Chair’s Report: “What is FS?” Working Group.
 - Rowland refined his memo and sent it to 6 faculty members (Henri Casanova, former Foundations Board Chair; Wayne Smith, Math; Gaye Chan, Art; Ken Kipnis, Philosophy; Mark McNally, History; Lynne Higa, Advising). Additional suggestions included Steve Canham (former Foundations Board Chair), and contacts in C of Education and C of Tropical Agriculture with a request to identify someone in their section to participate.
4. Networking with departments.
 - Rowland reiterated that the Committee members are welcome to use his Power Point presentation with minor changes (i.e., department name). Suggested that the group begin in spring to go out and inform the UHM community, starting with members’ own departments/programs.
 - Power Point presentation will be posted on Lulima.
5. Diversification – Fujikawa distributed sheet with 3 possible options for modifying Diversification eligibility for upper division courses.
Discussion:
 - Do we discourage Diversification at the 400-level?
 - In general, they are not entry-level courses; not providing students with enough “breadth”.
 - In some instances, students need to take another Diversification course as a prerequisite.
 - There are too many 400-level Diversification courses.
 - Some 300-level Diversification courses should remain as such because they meet “intent” (i.e., are introductory).

- Do we have enough arguments to justify deleting current 400-level Diversification designations?
 - We might want to consider letting current Diversification designations expire after their 5-yr limit.
 - In principle, limiting Diversification to 100-, 200-, and 300-level courses while removing it from 400-level courses is good, but not practical.
 - Let current Diversification designations on 400-level courses expire, OR, “as of ____ date, they will expire”?
 - How do we announce a revised plan?
 - Perhaps put together a brief (i.e., “here’s what we want to do and how we would do it”)
 - Would be good to have it reviewed by SEC, then to a Faculty Senate committee, maybe CAA.
 - To whom would this notification go?
6. Discussion of proposed spring meeting date -- only two small windows of time at this point.
- Elaine will contact committee members by email to nail date/time down.
7. WI Liaison report (Sammons):
- BIOL is concerned re limit of 20 for Biology WI labs.
 - BIOL labs in question almost always have a greater amount of students than the maximum 20 for W. Enrollment is capped at 24, supposedly to take into account attrition.
 - The W Board took action to remove W’s in the future. BIOL 172L has been offered with the W focus for nearly 10 years, while 171L has had the W designation for only two years. BIOL claims they need to increase the number of seats.
 - Does BIOL need to acquire more funding for more sections? BIOL services many colleges and programs.
 - The 20-student limit was approved by the FS in 1988 and then by the BOR.
 - Question: why is it important for the labs to be W?
 - Having the W designation does not deal with the issue of getting more students.
 - Could we consult with the Assessment Office to review what they have on BIOL 171L and 172L?

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Next meeting: December 16, 1:30 p.m., HH 208.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder