

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Jim Caron, Ernestine Enomoto, Sianha Gualano, Mike Nassir,
Galen Sasaki, Mamoru Sato, Comfort Sumida, Wei Zhang

Ex officio: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa (SEC),
Garrett Inouye (A&R)

Support staff: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder),
Todd Sammons (GEO)

Excused: Joe Jarrett, Ryan Yamaguchi (A&R)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Ernestine Enomoto.

1. Introduction of newest GEC member, Sianha Gualano (ASUH).
2. Minutes of October 12, 2010 were approved with the following corrections:
 - Action Item #7, 1st bullet: Enomoto attended recent Foundations Board meeting. ~~and Enomoto, Sammons and Cambra attended a UH System/DOE Math Summit. The DOE is redoing its Math core requirements in accordance with the National Common Core State Standards that state BOE adopted in June, 2010.~~
3. Course-Based Focus Proposal – COM 490 (W) S11
 - Discussion: Instructor submitted a revised course description. Note: course may not be offered for the full 3 years as the department is redoing their curriculum.
 - Vote: GEC voted unanimously to approve this proposal.
4. Chair's Update
 - Orientation of new GEC members (Caron and Sumida) on 10/20/10.
 - Faculty Senate meeting of 10/20/10 – no chance for GEC to report (lengthy meeting)
 - Faculty Senate Charge #1 (consolidation of MAC, GEC and Assessment Office). Sammons reported that the group met once, did not recommend any consolidation. Faculty Senate's MAC wants GEC to report on collaboration with OFDAS and AO.
 - High failure rate of courses – Enomoto is working with Tim Merrill (IRO). Generated list of top 50 courses (4 semesters) but needed additional information – changed period to 5 years (= 10 semesters). This is a Faculty Senate charge of CAP, MAC and GEC.
 - What kind of longitudinal data do we need/want? How do we look at it? What do we really want?
 - D's are actually a passing grade. Do we want to lump together D, F, I? (No, keep separately.)
 - Is it that students fail or fail to proceed? What about W or I grades? Student is not "proceeding" in their college career with these grades. Too many D's also becomes "failure to proceed".
 - What about grade of D minus? D will fulfill GenEd requirements; D- does not.
 - We are splitting our GE core for list.

- Can we have separate information? We want to identify patterns.
- Report will show how often event occurs over 5 years to become “killer courses”.
 - Number of occurrences, percentage; distribution of grades, mean and median.
 - Will also summarize course by sections.
- Members are concerned about anonymity (the report contains CRNs). GEC probably wouldn't do it as instructor-specific to preserve anonymity.
 - Cambra: Keep in mind that 100- and 200-level courses are introductory courses.
- Are students having trouble with introductory courses? Or is it the instructor?
 - Appears to be creating a backlog.
 - Note: FS is a different animal vs. FW, you cannot treat them the same.
- We need to have common standards. There appears to be a big disconnect between high school graduates and UHM expectations of them.
- FS Issues & Foundations Board
 - The high failure (D, W, F, I) rate of 25% or more we were using was an arbitrary one.
 - Originally working with the top 50 (low 30% to high 20's).
 - We need to use the data set we have to see a pattern over time. We are looking for courses that are repeatedly failing students over time.
 - Transparency is the first issue to have the faculty discuss.

Announcements:

1. Frances Lappe', author of “Diet for a Small Planet”, to speak on 11/4, 7 p.m. at Arch Auditorium.
2. O Board holding O Focus Workshop on 11/16, 3 p.m., Hamilton Library, Yap Room.

The next meeting of the GEC will be on Tuesday November 9, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder.