

## Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

QLC 208

Attendees: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Pete Garrod, Bob Joseph, Joy Logan, Sarita Rai, Stacey Roberts, Scott Rowland, Amy Schiffner, Todd Sammons (GEO), Kiana Shiroma, Carolyn Stephenson (SEC), Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

GEO support staff: Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa

Excused: ASUH representative (not yet assigned)

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. **Introductions.** The GEC welcomed new members Pete Garrod (Vice-Chair), Bob Joseph, and Kiana Shiroma. They also welcomed back Joy Logan, who was on sabbatical in Spring 2013.
2. **Minutes** from the May 8, 2013 meeting were approved with one abstention.
3. **Committee assignments** were made as follows:
  - a. **Board liaisons:**
    - Foundations Board (Fri 2-3pm): Bob Joseph
    - Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Board (Fri 10-11am): Amy Schiffner
    - Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific Issues (HAP) Board (Tues 9:30-10:30am): Sarita Rai
    - Oral Communication (O) Board (tentatively Wed 11-12pm): Joy Logan
    - Writing Intensive (W) Board (Mon 9-10am\*): Kiana Shiroma
  - b. **Diversification (Div) subcommittee:**
    - Scott Rowland (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
    - Peter Garrod
    - Ryan Yamaguchi
    - Todd Sammons
4. **Information items**
  - a. A **W Focus Exemption request** for “Noah” is posted on Laulima.
    - Focus Exemption requests are not reviewed by the Focus Boards the way Focus proposals are. They are submitted to the Gen Ed Office by the student and then posted for GEC review.
    - The request should be carefully reviewed for the next GEC meeting, making sure that all Hallmarks are being addressed in sufficient detail.
  - b. The **Fall 2013 Focus calendar** will be posted on Laulima once meeting days/times have been finalized. Hard copies will be distributed at the next GEC meeting.
5. **Discussion items**
  - a. After some discussion, the **Fall 2013 meeting time** was set as Wednesdays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays as follows:
    - October 2
    - October 16
    - November 6
    - November 20
    - December 4

\* NOTE: W Board meeting time has since been changed to Mondays at 9:30 a.m.

- b. A question about **auditing General Education courses** was raised by a department who has several people in the Kupuna Program who want to audit a W Focus course. Does the GEC want to set a policy, especially when the class size is limited as it is with O and W Focus sections?

#### Background

- There is currently no policy that says that students cannot audit Gen Ed courses.
- The extent of an auditor's participation (e.g., whether or not the auditor is expected to do the written work in a W Focus class) is left up to the instructor.
- Existing policy says that auditors should not be allowed "in classes where they might displace credit students." However, some felt this language was too vague to determine whether it pertains to Gen Ed courses.
- It is the instructor's prerogative to allow students to audit and also to determine what work they will be allowed/required to do as auditors.

#### Discussion

- GEC members who have had auditors in their classes have generally expected them to do the written work. In doing so, the student "took up the same amount of time" as the other students who were taking the course for credit. However, it is ultimately up to the instructor whether or not the auditor will be doing the written work and/or getting feedback on that work.
- At least one member felt that methodologically oriented courses require full participation in order to reap the benefits of taking the course.
- There are two types of auditors: 1) Classified and unclassified students who register for the course, appear on the class list, and choose to audit rather than take the course for a grade. 2) Auditors who participate in the Kupuna Program, which requires no application. The Program works with the instructors to have students audit the course, rather than have the students officially register. As such, the students do not appear on the official class list.
- Ryan said that the majority of auditors come through the Kupuna Program, so it might be good to work with them if there are recurring problems.
- Several members felt that auditing courses is a good way for students to explore different fields without being pressured to perform, and that students should be encouraged to do this kind of exploration.

The current position of the GEC is not to request any changes to existing policy regarding auditing. Lisa will follow up with the Kupuna Program to get more information.

**NEXT MEETING** will be held on Wednesday, October 2 at 12:00 p.m. in HH 208.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

*Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder*