

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Hawai'i Hall 208

Attendees: Jim Caron, Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Dore Minatodani, Scott Rowland, Mo Sato, Comfort Sumida

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

Excused: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Dick Chadwick (SEC), Garrett Inoue (Admissions), Joe Jarrett, Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions), Wei Zhang

Absent: Fred Birkett

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Dore Minatodani at 12:05 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The **minutes** of April 18, 2012 were approved with changes. It was decided that details of such changes will no longer appear in the minutes.
2. The **O Focus exemption** request for “Daniel” was unanimously approved (6-0-0) after a short discussion about whether the oral components contributed significantly enough to the course grade.
3. **ANTH 152 FGB renewal request**
 - The Foundations Board recommended that the FGB renewal request for ANTH 152 be approved. Board Chair Jim Bayman is in “close contact” with the curriculum committee in Anthropology and has talked to them about how the course needs to be tweaked in order for the Hallmarks to be met.
 - Several members felt that the changes that still need to be made are significant and questioned whether approval should be given at this time.
 - Scott pointed out that the current issues highlight the benefits of a 5-year renewal process, since there is clearly “course creep/drift” as well as changes in personnel that could potentially have an effect on the designation.
 - The question of having a Foundations Course Coordinator was raised. Like the Course Coordinator for course-based Focus courses, the person would be responsible for ensuring that all instructors teach the designated course in accordance with the Hallmarks. Several felt that this was a good idea.
 - A decision was made to table the vote until next semester. The GEC will send a letter to the Anthropology Department requesting a) an example of a revised syllabus that addresses the concerns in the Foundations Board memo and b) some assurance of continuity across the different sections of the course (e.g., with a Course Coordinator). All follow-up information from the department will be due back to the General Education Office by October 15, 2012.

4. **Rewording of FS Hallmark #5**

- The GEC unanimously (6-0-0) voted to accept the change to FS Hallmark #5 so that it now reads “to “include computational and/or quantitative skills” changed from “not focus solely on computational skills.”)
- Todd explained that each campus that participates in the Multicampus Foundations Agreement is going through a similar process of approval on their own campus. It wasn’t clear what would happen if not all campuses approve the change.
- It was explained that the proposed Hallmark rewording does not have to go before the Faculty Senate for approval because it is not a significant change. Wording changes that do not affect the intent of the requirement can be made at the GEC level, while changes to the intent or the structure of the General Education requirements must go before the full Faculty Senate.

Further discussion about FS

- The suggestion was made to have FS be less logic-based and more math-based.
- WASC hasn’t provided more clarity on what will be required with respect to quantitative skills at the “junior” or “senior” level. One possibility for Mānoa is to add more quantitative skills to its current FS Hallmarks. (Note that this would be for Mānoa courses only.)
- Other suggestions included adding quantitative skills as an additional Foundations, Focus, or Diversification requirement.
- Jim said that the Arts & Sciences Senate Executive Committee is currently thinking about curricular changes for the college, which include examining the current “math” requirement. The DPPC presented a report which recommended either abolishing the A&S math requirement (which would require an A&S vote) or abolishing FS completely (a recommendation which would be forwarded to the GEC if supported).
- Dore thought that for this year, the work of the FS Working Group should be honored, and that any further discussion of FS should be within the context of a fuller review of GenEd requirements, and perhaps within a framework that aligned with accreditation. Such a discussion would be beyond the scope of GEC and should probably be handled by a multi-year faculty committee.
- Jim thought that the OVCAA could provide the GEC with a WASC timeline which would help narrow the GEC’s timeline.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting: Fall 2012

Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder