

Minutes of the General Education Committee  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair Mike Kirk-Kuwaye.

Present: Lynne Higa, Susan Johnson, Mike Kirk-Kuwaye, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Carolyn Stephenson, George Wong

*Ex officio:* Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Jan Heu (A&R), David Ross (SEC)

Guests: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Tom Hilgers (GEO), Marlene Lowe (Assessment Office), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder), Monica Stitt-Bergh (Assessment Office)

MINUTES: Minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were approved with one change (in italics):  
Action Item #1, Question was raised: Was this *service learning project a part of a course?*

ACTION and INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Assessment Office Update  
Refer to the 2 handouts distributed.
  - There appears to be 3 areas likely to change:  
Disciplinary knowledge, social justice, and Hawaiian sense of place.
  - In stable areas, we are moving forward, i.e.,
    - FW conducted an ethnographic study of ENG's Mentor program; received funds from the Chancellor's office to study what improves retention.
    - CEI has a rubric; collected samples of student work last semester. Pilot testing rubric this semester; if successful, will do full assessment F09.
    - OC - rubrics have been distributed to faculty who are teaching O courses in S09.
    - WI - agreed tentatively to collect student writing samples from 3 areas (Shidler, ECON, HIST), develop rubric. May use writing samples collected by SOC to pilot test.
  - Plans for longitudinal 4-yr cohort study of incoming F09 freshmen. (Modeled after U WA study.) Currently pursuing avenues of funding for this study.
    - GEC suggestion when determining reporting lines; keep GEC in the (info) loop.
    - Next step after completion of study: identify strengths and determine how to address weaknesses.
2. Focus Exemption Application Update - Fujikawa reported applicant signed up for a 1-credit service learning course.  
Discussion – The course-based Exemption was originally designed for Study Abroad experiences not UH-sponsored; the focus is on experience of an “extraordinary nature.”
  - Comment: We have mechanisms for students to obtain credit by alternate means, but if we dissect this further are we being counterproductive to the process?
  - Concern about students using the Focus Exemption to circumvent the regular Focus designation process.
  - Note: Perhaps SOCS should be informed about the normal procedures for getting a Focus designation (i.e., apply beforehand).

Vote taken: 4 approved, 1 opposed, 2 abstained.

3. FS Data Update – Higa reported that the Foundations Board prepared a draft response, mirroring GEC ideas. Also mentioned potential for a joint GEC/F Board meeting. GEC to wait for final report (due 2/16).
4. FG Data Update – data is being worked on, to arrive at GEO shortly.
5. Vote on Recommendations of the Diversification Subcommittee – GEC voted in favor of the subcommittee's recommendations (as follows):

Course	Title	Diversification Recommendation
ART 490 alpha	Special Topics in SE Asian Art History	DH
ART 492B	Art & Arch of S. Asia: Pre-Colonial	DH
ART 492C	Art & Arch of S. Asia: Hindu Visual Culture	DH
CHEM 425	Synthesis and Analysis of Inorganic Compounds	DP
CHEM 425L	Prep & Analysis of Inorganic Compounds Lab	DY
CHEM 445	Synthesis and Analysis of Organic Compounds	DP
CHEM 445L	Prep & Analysis of Organic Compounds Lab	DY
FSHN 322	Marketing Nutrition and Food	Remove DS (doesn't meet 2/3 rule; too applied)
GER 362	Modern Germanic Civilization	DH
IP 377	Critical Discourses in IPLL Studies: Philippines	None (instructor withdrew DL request)
MUS 270	World of Music: Asia/Pacific	DH
REL 352	Sulfism: Mystical Traditions of Islam	DH
THEA 345	Intro to Lighting Design and Technology	DA

6. Diversification report (Cambra)
  - Articulation of Diversification  
Effective 12/18/08, UHM will accept sending campus's Diversification designation if different than UHM. (Decisions made prior to this date will be honored). Heu's office will handle the transcripts.
  - Diversification issue from Deans' perspective – courses with low enrollment are justified because "they fulfill a GenEd (Diversification) requirement." Same argument is used when trying to "retire" courses that have not been offered in the last 4 years.
    - Cambra's office generated a list of courses that had not been offered in the last 4 years, removed approximately 400 courses during the last Catalog revision. Examining history/popularity of courses. In some departments, there is a movement to have senior faculty teach introductory courses.

WRAP-UP: -- GEO to obtain FG data from A&R.  
 -- Hilgers and Cambra to do more fact-finding, draft memo to deans re diversification courses.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m

Next meeting: February 18, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Haw 208.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder