

## **Minutes of the General Education Committee**

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Ernestine Enomoto, Joe Jarrett, Mike Nassir, Galen Sasaki, Mamoru Sato, Comfort Sumida, Wei Zhang

Ex officio: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Ryan Yamaguchi (A&R)

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

Excused: Jim Caron, Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Garrett Inoue (A&R), Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa (SEC)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

1. Minutes of November 23, 2010 were unanimously approved. It was noted that "I" (incomplete) grade changes need to be submitted by April 1 for Fall courses and by November 1 for Spring and Summer courses.
2. Selection of Spring 2011 meeting day/time – it was decided that the GEC will meet on Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m.
3. Discussion on High Failure Courses with General Education Designations
  - 10 semesters' worth of data (2005-2010), with 28 courses that appear on the high failure list in 5 or more of those semesters.
  - Colleges of the high failure courses are now identified. 10 courses fall under Natural Sciences; another 10 are in Social Sciences.
  - Still in the process of determining how to go forward with the data.
    - How do we approach SEC with this info?
    - Should high failure courses continue to carry a GenEd designation?
    - If there are a lot of low-end grades, is the problem really with the course?
    - What's the role of an "introductory course?" Is a course truly introductory if it has such a high failure rate? Perhaps there should be an examination of the actual course content vs. the syllabus.
    - Approximately 50% of incoming students are transfers. Majority have not completed AA degrees, transferring in with approximately 30-48 credits.
    - Some courses are "gate-keeping" for some majors. Foundations courses should NOT be gate-keeping.
    - Nine courses on this list are at the 300-/400- level, with lower enrollment levels than the 100-level intro courses. Perhaps list could be parsed down to only the 100-/200-level courses.

- If the minimum grade for GenEd courses is changed from D to C (or C-), there will be an even greater “failure” rate.
    - A lot depends on getting the right faculty to successfully teach these courses. This raised the idea of “teaching specialists,” tenure-track faculty who only teach (versus teach and do research). However, this would require a change of culture to be adopted by administration first.
  - No resolution on high failure courses at this time. The working group will meet and strategize about how to move forward.
4. Diversification Subcommittee Report (Nassir) – The group met and approved several courses. They anticipate another meeting next week.
  5. Foundations Board Report (Nassir) – HAW 100 is currently being reviewed for an FG designation. The FS issue has not been discussed yet.
  6. GEC policy on voting via Laulima (Sammons) –
    - History: Focus proposals were posted to WebCT (and subsequently Laulima) to help disseminate them to the Boards and save paper (versus sending hard copies to members or having them come into the office to review them).
    - Issue: It now appears that some Boards are using Laulima to vote, in place of face-to-face meetings. How do we get the Boards to realize that face-to-face meetings are an extremely important part of the process? Do we create policy to that effect? Should online voting only be used in exceptional circumstances?
    - Sammons will bring issue up at the next Advisory Group meeting (Spring).

The next meeting of the GEC will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder.