

Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, October 14, 2009
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chair Scott Rowland.

Present: Ernestine Enomoto, Lynne Higa, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Galen Sasaki, Todd Sammons, Mamoru Sato, Carolyn Stephenson.

Ex officio: Krystyna Aune for Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Jan Heu (A & R)

Excused: Ron Cambra, Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Susan Hippensteele (SEC)

Support staff: Tom Hilgers (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

Guest: Ruth Bingham (A & S Academic Advising)

MINUTES: Minutes of the September 30, 2009 meeting were approved.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Proposal to modify Focus prorate for UH system transfers

Ruth Bingham reviewed the proposal that she had drafted and CAA had endorsed. Proposal asks GEC to review GenEd requirements and determine if the Focus areas are integral to the degree. If they are, proration should recognize system-wide availability of W and H courses and be fair to all. The proposal, covering only students transferring within system (not from outside system), offers several options involving the current prorate schedule. Bingham noted that the current prorate policy was created in part as an attempt to ease student transfer at a particular time. The proposal's goals are to reflect current realities, to minimize errors, and to help make UHM degree requirements fair on all fronts.

Discussion points:

- Proration set in place with new core in 2001 while GenEd requirements were in transition; it was not intended to last forever.
- Focus requirements and offerings are stable.
- Issue of access to Focus-requirement classes is moot—everyone entering knows this.
- We don't prorate requirements of major for transfer students.
- All UHM graduates should meet the same requirements.
- There is a very high error rate in the interpretation of the current prorate policy.
- The CAA's March 2009 proposal is relatively minor. Changes would make the policy clearer, less prone to errors, and does not "reward" transfer students.
- How many students are involved? RB cannot give us approximate numbers.
- A & S sees many students with lots of CC courses, many with 60-90 credits.
 - Ex: KCC student transferred in with 90 credits, but still had to take 6 courses GenEd courses.
 - Many students started out with the "old" core. When the GEC last discussed this, the author of the prorate mentioned a sunset date, but none was ever formally adopted.
- If this is indeed a GEC matter, then we could vote and add a date for effectiveness that gives fair warning to UH system students. Wording could be, "Starting in F11, . . ."
- Will this make students take longer to graduate? Response: No.
Would it encourage faster transfer of credits? Yes.
- The student's acceptance date into UHM is considered the base prorate date. A student can be co-enrolled at UHM and CC but not through Ka'ie'ie.
- Was proration originally a resource issue?
- Prorating only requirements for non-system transfers recognizes that within UH system, courses are available to meet requirements.
- Why do we allow students to accumulate 90 credit hours with an AA? Answer: this would require CCs to have mandatory advising; they are also open enrollment and many students take diverse courses.

- Are there any other potential sources of trouble with this proposal?
 - It might put more pressure on departments to offer more E & O courses.
 - CAA was split when it came to handling former UH system students who stopped or transferred out, then returned to UH; upon return, they were considered “non-system”. This may not be fair since UHM policy would then allow these transfers to prorate.

A motion to vote was put off until the next GEC meeting.

2. Vote on Course-based and Multiple-designation Proposals

The following courses and attached focus designations were approved unanimously by the GEC:

FIL 330 - E, O, W Filipino Films: Art, History and Culture – Ruth Mabanglo
 HWST 107 – H – Hawaiʻi: Center of the Pacific
 OCN 490 – O – Communication of Research Results
 SPED 444 – W – Ed Excpt Students Reg Clsrms – Elem
 SPED 445 – W – Ed Excpt Students Reg Clsrms – Secondary
 SPED 461 – W – Assessment, Planning and Instruction for Students
 ITE 312 – W – Foundations in Curr & Instruction
 ITE 313 – W – Literacy and Literature I
 ITE 314 – W – Literacy and Literature II
 ITE 322 – W – Social Studies, Elementary

The following courses+designations were approved (vote tallies in parentheses):

ITE 391 C/S - E, W – Seminar for Student Teaching (7 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained)
 ITE 405 - O – Teaching Residency (7 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained)
 ITE 406 – E, W - Seminar in Teaching Residency (7 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained)

The following course was originally approved (5 approved, 1 opposed, 2 abstained). However, the vote was rescinded when it was noted that the decision was still pending by the O Board:

ICS 390 E, O, W – Computing Ethics for LAs (course-based)

3. Draft MOA involving change in system articulation of GenEd Core courses

- Other Senate-related and administrative groups are going to meet and discuss this.
- Wording does not clear up confusion; there are problems with the way it is currently written.
- Chair Rowland can report to the SEC that we are in discussion and indicate there are five points of concern being reviewed by the GEC.
- Under the MOA, students could be given a false sense of hope regarding the transfer of courses (taken at CC's) to meet UHM's General Education Core.
 - Course by course review must be done; Banner requires it, students need it for eventual majors.
 - Question: do other campuses review other AA degrees? Transfer of core, transfer of diversification?
 - Cambra wants students to get through the academic process, not hinder it. Keep in mind the mission of the AA degree is different than that of a UHM Bachelor's degree.

- WRAP UP:
1. Review UHM CAA proposal on Focus Proration; determine if there would be any potential proration problems.
 2. Review draft MOA carefully and come up with suggestions for reasonable response(s) to be discussed at next GEC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Next meeting: October 28, 2009, 1:30 p.m., HH 208.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder