

## Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Fred Birkett, Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Jim Caron, Richard Chadwick (SEC),  
Joe Jarrett, Scott Rowland, Mamoru Sato, Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions), Wei Zhang

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

Excused: Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Garrett Inoue (Admissions), Dore Minatodani,  
Comfort Sumida

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Jarrett at 12:03 p.m..

### ACTION ITEMS:

1. Minutes of November 30, 2011 were approved with the following corrections:
  - Action Item #1: Information Item #2, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet: “WASC ~~approved~~ Voted to approve  
*voted to approve a plan that would require for* hard data on 5 core competencies . . .”
  - Action Item #5: At the January, 2012 ~~SEC~~ ~~Senate~~ meeting . . .
2. Proposal for GEC Vote – HAW 100 (FG-B)
  - History: last year the proposal was presented to the GEC at the last minute; thus, there was no time for negotiation. A revised version was submitted this spring. Former GEC Chair Enomoto’s memo addressed GEC concerns:
    - Biggest concern: the proposal was heavily focused on Hawaii and not globally.
    - Course was taught for many years with H focus; if approved for FG-B it would be a Foundations course instead.
    - Long reading list
    - Insistence on title with Hawaii focus
    - Suggestion of changing course number so as not to confuse future students.
    - Vague syllabus
    - Banner title should include words, “Global Language Issues”
    - It was noted that “Survival Kit” wording got moved from title to description.
  - Foundations Board recommended current proposal unanimously, noted weakness regarding global focus, but felt HAW had met the letter of the requirement.
    - Concern raised about lack of Course Coordinator to ensure adherence to “global” factor; this is always a potential problem with Foundations courses.
  - Concern raised about one less HAP course to offer once it is offered as an FG. It would increase the number of HAW FG courses.
    - It is not a HAP seat issue; just an issue of course variety.
  - HAW’s concept of “foundational” is different from the General Education’s idea of “foundational”.
  - Noted that the instructors addressed everything GEC wanted them to address without completely revamping the course.
  - VOTE: HAW 100 (FG-B) approved unanimously (5-0-0) with caveat to change Banner title.

3. Discussion re: concept of students with 45+ upper-division credits (from Committee in OVCAA)
- Some of our 200-level courses are “introductory” (versus community college courses and 100-level “introductory” courses).
    - To get rid of the confusion, propose to switch it to upper division status.
    - Of students with 25 credits or more, one-third of UHM students are in NAT SCI.
    - When the economy dips and faculty retire en masse, it is harder to continue with “boutique” (300- and 400-level) courses and “service” type courses.
    - Question: One opinion: are the upper division courses important or are they too specialized?
      - If UHM is a research institution, the courses are important.
    - A reason given by some departing students is that they are not academically challenged here.
    - Are students taking the 45 credits in their department?
    - Do we want to accept community college-level courses as upper division at UHM?
    - NAT SCI students won’t be able to complete their degrees in four years.
      - Note: This issue is with CAPP now. It was unclear how long the issue was discussed before it was passed.
      - Designating 200-level NAT SCI courses as upper division has the problem of also being offered at community colleges.
      - CAA’s final recommendation: 45 credits within reach, with 5% impacted.
      - Biology majors - estimated that 50% won’t graduate within 4 years.
      - On the other hand, 45 out of 120 credits isn’t that much.  
However, because of the many 100- and 200-level requirements, forces students to take a lot of GenEd requirements and upper division courses in the final two years.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Next meeting: January 25, 2012, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder.