

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Fred Birkett, Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Jim Caron, Richard Chadwick (SEC), Joe Jarrett, Dore Minatodani, Scott Rowland, Comfort Sumida, Ryan Yamaguchi (A&R)

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

Excused: Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Garrett Inoue (A&R), Mamoru Sato, Wei Zhang

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Joe Jarrett.

ACTION and INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Minutes of September 14, 2011 were unanimously approved with the following corrections (in *italics*):
 - Action/Information Item #2, 4th bullet, 5th indent: "~~Are we awarding teachers or rewarding researchers?~~" "*Research is rewarded, teaching is awarded.*"
 - Action/Information Item #2, Discussion section, 6th bullet: "Comment: ~~Examine a teaching department.~~ *Examine teaching in departments.*"
 - Action/Information Item #5: "Proposal to make an exception to ~~ruling~~ *policy* . . ."
 - Action/Information Item #5, 1st bullet: "...it be possible for GEO to designate ~~particular courses~~ *additional sections*..."
2. Exception to the "no Focus changes after registration starts" policy
 - Request was made by Jarrett to delete "Previous Policy" under "Publication of designations" on pg. 8-15 of the Handbook.
 - Proposed "amendment" to the policy will now read:
Exception: If the course has a course-based Focus approval, the approved Focus designation(s) may be attached *to sections that are added* after continuing-student registration has begun and students have registered for the course.
 - Vote was unanimous to accept the amendment.
3. Implementation of proposed FS compliance rules
 - Jarrett reviewed FW emails sent out by the GEO to UHM students. He proposed suggested email messages for FS:
 - For incoming students with no credits: welcome/reminder about taking FS in the first year

- For continuing students with less than 50 credits: stern email, but no threat of hold (to help student finish in two years)
 - HOLD email was also drafted, but will not be used for now.
 - Jarrett will circulate draft emails to the GEC.
 - Because a report/program to identify students without FW credit has already been written, Admissions and Records can tweak the report so that it can also be used to apply to FS. Last year, the number of non-compliant FS students was approximately 800; Yamaguchi will check again.
4. Jarrett's draft memo/proposal to include quantitative skills in FW explanatory notes:
- Explanatory Notes can be changed without going to the Faculty Senate.
 - Philosophy seems to think requiring quantitative skills would be okay, even though one of their current FS courses may drop off the list as a result.
 - Proposal may meet with resistance from some UHM faculty.
 - Why don't we change the Hallmarks?
 - This would require all-campus approvals.
 - Hallmarks are taken more seriously than the Explanatory Notes.
 - The proposed change to the explanatory notes is meant to be a clarification of Hallmarks versus a Hallmark change.
 - How will this affect current FS courses?
 - Other than the PHIL course, only the provisionally-approved SOCS 150 would be affected. The rest of the courses have a quantitative component.
 - Question: Do we want to decide what kind of vote constitutes approval by the Foundations Multicampus Group? $\frac{3}{4}$ majority? $\frac{2}{3}$ majority? Currently there is no real definition, but it was agreed that the decision has to be made by the Foundations Multicampus Group.
5. Guest, Susan Hippensteele – Critical Thinking Assessment (CAT)
- When CAT test was developed 10+ years ago, UHH was a participant.
 - Test comes from Tennessee Tech. Hippensteele and Lorey Takahashi were trained as scorers.
 - There are currently about 20 scoring faculty at UHM.
 - The next scoring session will be on October 14, 9am-1pm. Lunch will be provided.
 - The UHM CAT working group is applying for an NSF grant (due in May) to study critical thinking skill acquisition. Trying to determine if this is a good assessment tool.
 - UHM is currently using test to look at a provisional FS course and to compare it to some traditional FS and non-FS courses.
 - CAT details
 - Non-discipline-specific questions
 - Only one version of the test; participants must sign non-disclosure form
 - Cost: \$6/test
 - Only standardized assessment tool that is faculty-scored
 - Question: can you really assess critical thinking?

- Susan will forward an electronic copy of the information sheet to the GEO for distribution to GEC.
6. WASC Informational meeting concerning changes to the re-accreditation process
- Western Regional WASC group coming to Hawai‘i on October 18, 2011, 2-4 p.m.
 - GEC is allowed to have 2-3 representatives.
 - Jarrett asked if anyone was interested in volunteering; otherwise, attendees will be Jarrett, Minatodani, and Sammons.
7. Volunteers for various Working Groups
- High DFIW course follow-up: Jarrett + Birkett
 - Critical Thinking Working Group: Sammons + Caron + 1
 - Institutional Learning Objectives: Minatodani + 1 (Gualano was suggested)
- Anyone interested in volunteering should email Jarrett.

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 12:00 noon**.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder