

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

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Hawai'i Hall 208

Attendees: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Jim Caron, Dick Chadwick (SEC), Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Joe Jarrett, Dore Minatodani, Scott Rowland, Mo Sato, Comfort Sumida, Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions), Wei Zhang

Support staff: Dawne Bost (GEO), Lisa Fujikawa (GEO Recorder), Todd Sammons (GEO)

Excused: Garrett Inoue (Admissions), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO)

Absent: Fred Birkett

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Jarrett at 12:05 p.m.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. The minutes of March 7, 2012 were tabled. They will be reviewed and voted on at the next GEC meeting on April 4.
2. **ACC 401** was approved (7 for, 0 against, 1 abstention) for a course-based W Focus, effective Fall 2012 through Summer 2015.
  - The GEC had concerns about the fact that writing does not contribute significantly to the final grade (33% on one syllabus, 18% on the other). However, Lisa pointed out that the syllabi both included a statement that required students to complete all writing assignments in order to pass the course.
  - The GEC asked that a statement such as the following be put in the approval memo: "Although the course has been approved for a course-based W Focus, the percentage of the final grade which is attributed to writing is minimal and should be increased."
  - Joe suggested that the W Board consider requiring a minimum percentage of the grade to be attributed to writing.
3. **ACC 418** was unanimously approved for a course-based W Focus, effective Fall 2012 through Summer 2015.
4. Foundations renewal proposals for **ELI 100** (FW), **GEOG 102** (FGB), and **GEOG 151** (FGC) were tabled until the next GEC meeting. The GEO will post the renewal information on Laulima. Renewal information for ANTH 151 and 152 will also be posted.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### **1. SOCS 150 Update**

- Joe notified the Foundations (F) Board of the GEC's decision to give SOCS 150 a three-year conditional approval for FS (Fall 2012-Summer 2015). The F Board felt that the GEC had overstepped its bounds by overriding the F Board's recommendation for an additional one-year conditional approval. They referenced the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that requires consultation between the GEC and the Board if the GEC vote looks as though it will go against the recommendation of the Board.
- Joe will attend the next F Board meeting to explain the rationale for the GEC's decision, primarily that a one-year extension does not allow sufficient time for the instructors to redevelop the course. (The new proposal needs to be submitted approximately one year prior to the end of the existing approval period. A one-year extension for the course would mean that instructors would work over the summer to submit a new proposal in Fall 2012.)
- Scott said the F Board's opinion is that a three-year extension of the conditional approval sends the message that the existing problems will take three years to resolve. They also think that it will be extremely difficult to remove the FS designation if it continues for another three years, even if the course doesn't meet the FS Hallmarks.

- Joe suggested a possible compromise of a two-year conditional approval. This would give the instructors a year to further develop the course before having to submit a new proposal.
- There was discussion about requiring new courses to be taught a certain number of times/semesters before being proposed for a Foundations designation. However, Todd said in this case, the course wouldn't "go" without the designation.
- F Board wants the course to be ready to go before it is taught, while the GEC is more ready to let the instructors "learn on the job." The F Board feels the instructors have already had a year to develop and tweak the course, so they do not feel an extended conditional approval is appropriate.
- Joe pointed out that the GEC Handbook says that conditional approvals should not be given for Foundations. Some felt that a probationary designation/approval period should be allowed for new courses.
- Some members felt that the course does not meet the FS Hallmarks and wondered if there were other ways to help the course succeed. Suggestions included consideration for an FW or a Focus designation; however, the course currently doesn't seem to meet these requirements, and it's clear that the creators wanted the course to fulfill FS, providing students with an alternative to Math and Philosophy courses.

The GEC unanimously approved a motion to offer a two-year probationary period for SOCS 150 to the F Board. Joe will meet with the Board to present this compromise.

## 2. FS Working Group Update

- The group voted to recommend a compromise:
  - Change Hallmark #5 from "not focus solely on computational skills" to "include computational and/or quantitative skills."
  - Move current Hallmark #5 to become the first Explanatory Note under the new Hallmark #5.
- The recommendation is essentially a clarification of the existing Hallmark.
- There was general agreement that quantitative skills needs to be addressed, but that the FS Working Group is not the appropriate venue.
- The Foundations Multicampus Group thinks it has the authority to change the Hallmarks. Joe thinks the proposed change needs to go back to all campuses, and that at Mānoa, the GEC needs to make the decision.
- Todd doesn't think the proposed change needs to be voted on by the Faculty Senates. He thinks the Faculty Senates get involved only when there is a proposed change to the intent of and/or the actual requirements. The process for approval still needs to be settled.
- GEC discussion:
  - If a new quantitative skills requirement is going to be proposed, the Multicampus Group should create/propose it – not Mānoa. However, Mānoa could take the lead.
  - In order to maintain the same number of required GenEd credits, an existing requirement would have to be dropped if a new requirement is adopted. Scott suggested replacing one of the W Focus requirements with a Foundations-Quantitative Skills (FQ) requirement. However, removing a Focus requirement would not help the community colleges, who only have Foundations and Diversification requirements in their GenEd.
  - Perhaps students could be given the choice to take FS or FQ (Foundations-Quantitative Skills). However, we want students to fulfill both requirements, not just the "easier" one. Allowing some courses to double dip (i.e., fulfill both FS and FQ) might be possible, but it would probably mean the death of PHIL 110, which only fulfills FS.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next meeting: April 4, 2012, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder.