

## Minutes of the General Education Committee

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Ernestine Enomoto, Joe Jarrett, Mike Nassir, Galen Sasaki, Comfort Sumida

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

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

Excused: Garrett Inoue (A&R), Lilikala Kame'elehiwa, Mamoru Sato

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Ernestine Enomoto.

1. Introductions were made. GEC welcomed new members Joe Jarrett (Chemistry/GEC Vice Chair) and Comfort Sumida (Manoa Advising Center (MAC)).
2. GEC recognized Mike Nassir for his Chancellor's Citation for Meritorious Teaching Award.
3. GEC Liaison assignments were confirmed: W – Galen Sasaki; O – Mamoru Sato (pending confirmation that he can make the Wednesday 1:00 p.m. meeting time); H – open; E – Comfort Sumida; Foundations – Mike Nassir.
4. Diversification subcommittee assignments: although the GEC is currently short on members, it was decided to continue having a subcommittee to review Diversification requests.

### ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Minutes of May 5, 2010 were approved.
2. Carry-over issues and concerns
  - a. Ongoing need to ensure sufficient number of seats for students (i.e., availability).
  - b. Assessment
    - Assessment Office is doing longitudinal study to track approximately 100 students over their careers. Will involve GenEd.
    - Assessment Office, English Department, and English Language Institute have reviewed student writing and looked at two of the four student learning outcomes for Foundations-Written Communication (FW).
    - Five-year review of GenEd courses currently takes place, but it's problematic that it takes 2-3 years to complete the review. Some campuses that participate in the GenEd multicampus agreements haven't done their reviews.
  - c. Foundations-Symbolic Reasoning (FS) issues
    - Should an exemption exam be created? Students currently have no way to "test out" of the FS requirement.
    - Should the FS requirement have both quantitative and logic components (e.g., FS-Q and FS-L)? Some committee members feel that the current Hallmarks have a bias against quantitative skills. Such a change would require a change to the current Hallmarks, and could result in some students taking two courses (although certain courses could still fulfill both the quantitative and logic components). *NOTE: If Hallmarks are to be changed, it can be done by the Foundations Board, with the agreement of the Foundations multicampus group. Faculty Senate approval is not required.*

- Should the validity of FS courses be examined more closely? 45% of students have difficulty completing their FS course at Manoa. Many go to the CCs to successfully complete MATH 100.
- Should students be required to complete all Foundations courses in their first year, as it currently states in the UHM Catalog? While there is enforcement of FW in the first year, some felt that enforcing FS in the first year is premature, even though this is the stated policy. The FS Working Group recommended completion of FS by the end of the second/sophomore year.
- Should GEC encourage other departments (besides MATH and PHIL) to propose new courses for an FS designation? Psychology and Hawaiian Studies are currently thinking about doing so.
- Statistics courses do not meet the current FS Hallmarks. Is this a problem?

Chair Enomoto would like to carry this issue over to next meeting.

- Enomoto will draft resolution with case samples.
- Information will be sent to the Foundations Board so that they can discuss the issues and give their recommendations to the GEC.

### 3. MATH 241 update

Cambra reported that the proposal to offer a one-year version of MATH 241 did not progress beyond the Mathematics faculty. Instead, they are working on a) supplementary instruction and b) a student survey.

### 4. Focus Exemption Application – “Robyn”

Oral presentation seemed like a “script.” Yamaguchi noted that A&R does not usually grant course credit for work experience. GEC voted unanimously not to approve Robyn’s application (0 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstained).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There are new charges from Faculty Senate:

- Proposed GEO/MAC/Office of Faculty Development & Academic Support (OFDAS) consolidation (related to faculty development). GEO and MAC may be asked to form a working group to look into feasibility and make a recommendation by the October Faculty Senate meeting.
- Review of high failure rate of certain courses by Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP), MAC, GEC. Faculty Senate would like recommendations by its December meeting.

The next meeting of the GEC will be on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock will be in attendance.

## WRAP-UP

1. GEO to upload to Laulima WASC statement about college-level quantitative skills (CFR 2.2A), current FS Hallmarks, and FS Working Group’s Report.
2. Chair to prepare draft FS resolution with case samples.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder