

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Hawai'i Hall 208

Attendees: Ron Cambra (OUE), Pete Garrod, Bob Joseph, Joy Logan, Sarita Rai, Stacey Roberts, Scott Rowland, Amy Schiffner, Elisabeth Seamon (ASUH), Kiana Shiroma, Carolyn Stephenson (SEC)

GEO support staff: Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa

Excused: Todd Sammons (GEO)

Absent: Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

1. The **March 12, 2014 minutes** were unanimously approved (7-0-0). Minutes from the February 26 meeting were still unavailable.

2. Course-based Focus Requests

- The **W Focus requests for several ENG courses (200, 270/A, 271/A, 272/A, 273/A, and 306)** were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0, with the caveat that the syllabi need to clearly state that drafts are required and students will be given feedback on those drafts.
 - Several members felt that the syllabi give the impression that feedback is optional, not required. The fact that students “may” (versus “will”) receive feedback was a concern. In addition, because almost all feedback is in groups, it seems like quiet students would be able to avoid getting feedback.
 - Other members felt that the peer editing that was occurring was not haphazard, but very specific and pointed. Instructors who can facilitate this kind of peer editing are providing their students a valuable service, especially because students sometimes listen to their peers more than they listen to their instructors.
 - Elisabeth is currently in one of the English classes in question. She said that when students are “encouraged” to see the instructor for feedback, no one goes. She agreed that peer editing is really valuable, and provides students with more well-rounded feedback because they are hearing from both the instructor and their peers.
 - Some faculty agreed with the assertion that students are unlikely to meet one-on-one with the instructor if it is not mandated. Others said that students always took advantage of the opportunity to meet with the instructor. Elisabeth felt that it was better to require students to meet with the instructor, because it is intimidating for a student to have to initiate the meeting.
 - There was also some concern about the group work that seems to characterize the courses. Some faculty have heard a lot of complaints about group work, and Elisabeth agreed that it can be problematic when one’s grade depends on other students’ comments.
 - Other members’ primary concern was to see evidence of the writing process, which is demonstrated clearly in the syllabi. Although turning in a first draft (and subsequently getting feedback on it) may be optional (it’s not clear what happens on “draft workshop day,” and the instructor sometimes doesn’t check to see that students have brought their draft with them), students do have to submit final drafts and will receive feedback, which will help them to improve on subsequent assignments.

- The **O Focus request for GG 410** was approved by a vote of 7-0-1. Elisabeth liked the fact that the instructor meets with each student to give feedback. Other GEC members also liked the proposal.
- The **O Focus request for ITE 329** was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0. The GEC agreed that it makes sense to have an O Focus on a teaching class, especially one that focuses on the performing arts. There is lots of feedback from the instructor and the students.
- The **W Focus request for SLS 380** was approved by a vote of 7-0-2. The course uses a portfolio as a means to show each student's progress over the course of the semester, and it is graded in its entirety at the end of the semester.
- The **E and W Focus request for TIM 321** was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (The O Focus was not considered, as it was determined that the course was not yet eligible for a course-based designation for that Focus.)

3. Announcements

- Dawne is one of 35 people from the WASC schools who has been accepted to the competitive Assessment Leadership Academy. She will begin ALA work this summer.
- The QR Working Group will meet with the Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate this afternoon.

4. The **next GEC meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 16 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Hawaii Hall 208. (Note the change from the originally scheduled April 9 meeting.)

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Submitted by *Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder*