

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Hawai'i Hall 208

Attendees: Pete Garrod, Bob Joseph, Joy Logan, Stacey Roberts, Scott Rowland, Elisabeth Seamon (ASUH), Kiana Shiroma, Carolyn Stephenson (SEC)

GEO support staff: Lisa Fujikawa

Excused: Dawne Bost, Sarita Rai, Todd Sammons (GEO)

Absent: Ron Cambra (OUE), Amy Schiffner, Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

1. Past **meeting minutes** were unavailable for review/approval.

2. Focus Exemption Requests

- **Cassie's O Focus request** was tabled because the GEC did not feel that the proposal addressed the Hallmarks. Stacey will contact the student and ask her to resubmit, keeping the O Focus Hallmarks in mind.
- **John's O Focus request** was approved by a vote of 6-1-0. The GEC felt that his proposal did a good job of demonstrating how his experience met the O Focus Hallmarks.

3. Multiple-Designation Focus Request

Laura Gershuni's E, O, and W request for TIM 321 was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. The GEC's primary concern was the fact that videotaping students was a possibility, not a requirement. However, the proposal was approved because the course met the Hallmarks in other ways, regardless of whether or not students would be videotaped.

4. Course-based Focus Requests

- The **W Focus request for JOUR 300** was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
- The **W Focus request for ACM 350** was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. The GEC commended the strong proposal, noting the large amount of writing and the "endless" revisions.
- The **O Focus request for HAW 321** was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. The GEC noted that there was only one syllabus because it was the "master."
- The **O and W Focus request for EE 496** was approved by a vote of 7-0-1. Some of the members were concerned about the group work emphasis, while others felt that such work would prepare students well for the engineering field.
- The **W Focus request for HIST 496 alpha** was approved by a vote of 4-0-4. (Note that the four abstentions were because those members did not have a chance to review the proposal.) Lisa reported that W Board followed up with the department on several syllabi that were missing information. The syllabi were subsequently revised to address all the Hallmarks.
- The **W Focus for HIST 396 alpha** was approved by a vote of 5-0-3. (As with HIST 496 alpha, the three abstentions were due to the fact that those members did not have a chance to review the proposal.)

Discussion

- **Deadlines.** The GEC commented on how difficult it was to review and approve so many proposals with such a tight turnaround time. Lisa explained the two-deadline system that the General Education Office currently uses to space out submission/review of proposals and also to allow late appointees the opportunity to get their sections designated with a Focus. Pete suggested having only one deadline for proposals that require GEC review – namely course-based proposals and proposals for sections that are requesting three or four Focus designations.
- **Hawaiian/Second Language (HSL) requirement.** Lisa raised a question about the HSL requirement that had arisen recently at a Council of Academic Advisors (CAA) meeting. Many Schools/Colleges and even individual majors have modified or completely waived the requirement, resulting in it no longer being a “General Education” requirement in the true sense of the term. Lisa questioned whether the requirement should be removed from the General Education requirements and left up to the School/College to adopt/modify/waive. As the requirement currently stands, it is very difficult to advise students and is much more complicated than it should be.

5. The **next GEC meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 23 from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Hawai‘i Hall 208.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by *Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder*