

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Sianha Gualano (ASUH), Joe Jarrett, Mike Nassir, Mamoru Sato, Galen Sasaki, Wei Zhang

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

Support staff: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

Excused: Jim Caron, Ernestine Enomoto, Garrett Inoue (A&R), Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa (SEC), Todd Sammons (GEO), Comfort Sumida

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Joe Jarrett.

ACTION and INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Minutes of February 15, 2011 were unanimously accepted.
2. MFS Course Numbering Schema
 - Does the GEC endorse and approve the intent of this proposal? Do we want to suggest changes?
 - Foundations course numbers, content, syllabus and SLOs should be consistent across campuses.
 - Alpha courses will have to be changed.
 - Departments will eventually have to decide on content issue.
 - GEC has until April to provide a response.
 - Suggestion: have Enomoto write up response with a list of issues, concerns, reservations.
 - Circulate draft, then vote at a later date.
3. MFS Freshman Colloquium White Paper Response – Update
 - Working group (Yamaguchi) reported to GEC:
 - Author wants endorsement for collaboration.
 - Group was able to cover/discuss only 2 to 3 of the GEC's concerns during the meeting.
 - Issue of only one person/one department credited on Banner for a course.
 - Issue of rotational basis of instructors, feasibility of such setup. Was assured that they would obtain normal approvals; however, for the first time, they "want the ban to be lifted" (i.e., no General Education review).
 - There would have to be separate tracks. Jarrett described a residential college setting at U of Michigan. After the first year, the science students had to go back and retake courses.
 - Reported that CSA appears to support this proposal.
 - Author wants to make course required for all freshmen.
 - Plan/course would only work for a very small group.
 - One suggestion might be to tack it onto the ACE as another learning community.
 - Turn proposal into three, 3-credit courses.
 - Course would still have to undergo General Education review.
 - Working Group will be meeting again in the near future.

4. Update: High Failure Working Group
 - Jarrett reported some general impressions from our working group meetings with the identified departments. He also commented about an online survey developed for Chem 272/273 students.
 - The Working Group should be asking the departments to formulate specific plans to address high DFWI rates in the courses we have identified. These plans should be specific in what steps will be taken, should provide an argument for how this will improve student learning, and could ask for more resources in terms of faculty FTEs, TA support, improved facilities, etc. This would provide a starting point for discussing these issues with the Deans and with higher administration.
5. Update: Foundations Board on FS resolution
 - Foundations Board met on 2/18, no quorum; will meet on 3/4.
 - Final wording of Board's recommendations to be presented at GEC's March 15 meeting.
6. Update: 400-diversification
 - Subcommittee is comfortable reviewing 400-level courses.
 - Approximately 10% of students fulfilled their diversification requirements with 400-level courses.
 - Transfer student issue: take higher numbered courses with no diversification designations.
 - Intention of diversification: is there broad exposure? A high level course may satisfy that intent.
 - This item can be removed from the agenda. If needed, may add words to Explanatory Notes at a later date.

Next meeting: March 15, 2011, 3:00 p.m., HH 208.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder.