

**Minutes of the General Education Committee**  
**Wednesday, November 28, 2012**  
**Hawai'i Hall 208**

**Attendees:** Dore Minatodani, Stacey Roberts, Scott Rowland, , Comfort Sumida, Joy Logan, Amy Schiffner, Dwane Tegman, Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Carolyn Stephenson (SEC), Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

**GEO support staff:** Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa, Todd Sammons

**Excused:** Wei Zhang, Sarita Rai

**Call to Order:**

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

The minutes of the 11/14/ 12 meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

Dwane Tegman was introduced as the new ASUH representative.

**Renewal Proposals:**

ANTH 151: The request for the FGA designation passed unanimously.

HIST 156: The review of this course included concerns about the organization of the proposal and the lack of clear means by which the department will assess the course at the end of the renewal period. This second concern led to a more general discussion of the appropriate mechanisms for assessing general education courses. The course was approved unanimously for the FGC designation.

MUS 107: The course received unanimous approval for the FGC designation although the GEC echoed concerns expressed by the Foundations Board (F Board) about the brief treatment of pre-history and the lack of European music in one submitted syllabus. It was shared that Fred Lau has volunteered to act as course coordinator for this course to assure the Hallmarks are met by all instructors teaching MUS 107.

ICS 141: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

ICS 142: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

MATH 100: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

MATH 140: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

MATH 203: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

MATH 215: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

MATH 241: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

MATH 251: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

PHIL 110/A: The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation.

NREM 203: Discussion of this course focused on concerns that the course description of how it will meet the Hallmarks is not readily accessible to all the reviewers. It was shared that the current F Board has an unusual number of members with knowledge of the FS designation including one math professor, two former FS working group participants, and a total of four Board members who specialize in disciplines that contain large components of symbolic reasoning, so their assessment that the course meets the Hallmarks may be particularly reliable.

The course was approved unanimously for the FS designation. However, the committee continued to express concerns about the lack of clear narrative that connected the course content to the Hallmarks. It was pointed out that the proposal form does not "explicitly ask for mapping of the Hallmarks." It was also noted that an F Board that was less "well versed" in the FS Hallmarks may have also found the proposal to be unusually challenging. There continued to be discussion of the feasibility and means of asking the department to "translate" the proposal text for wider comprehension for the next review.

GEOG 493: The course was approved unanimously for the WI course-based designation.

**Focus Exemption Request-Steven:** The request was approved unanimously.

**Information Items:**

HAP Board Proposal: A staggered renewal approval period was proposed by the HAP Board resulting from their experience with approving renewals that only marginally met the HAP Hallmarks. They proposed issuing 3 year approvals to the marginal courses and maintaining the 5 year approval period for courses that more clearly met the Hallmarks. It was decided that the HAP Board should bring the request to the Advisory Board when it meets in Spring 2013.

F Board Proposal #1: A shortened initial approval period is proposed by the Foundations Board. The Board decided unanimously that a 3 year approval period will allow courses enough time to develop and build a case for renewal, while reducing the risk of having an inadequate course being taught for the current 5 year approval period. GEC Board members inquired about the F Board's concern that poorly designed courses (that do not fully meet the Hallmarks) will obtain approval since it seems that most Foundations classes are not newly created courses. Speculation about the F Board's concerns included references to SOCS 150 and HWST 107; both were courses that were approved with reservations by recent F Boards and GEC Committees. It was determined that this proposal should also go before the Advisory Board in Spring 2013.

F Board Proposal #2: This proposal asks that the GEC to no longer review courses that are approved unanimously by the F Board. The GEC inquired about the similarities and differences between Focus course-based proposals, which come to the GEC for review, and the Foundations proposals, which are also essentially course-based. It was decided this proposal will also go to the Advisory Board.

F Board Proposal #3: The F Board would like to institute a requirement that all departments appoint a course coordinator for Foundations Courses. This matter was not deemed something that the GEC must approve or deny, so the F Board may make this decision.

Gen Ed Appreciation Luncheon: The GEO has been working with various models to identify and recognize faculty that have provided extraordinary service to General Education. So far, all results that exclude qualitative assessment of the faculty have been inadequate to release a list. The recognition data base does not include service on the Boards or Gen Ed classes taught outside of the Focus designations. The Gen Ed APT in charge of the project stated that all lists generated thus far, using the current criteria for selection, seem to exclude many people with significant service to Gen Ed. However, it is hoped that the GEO Faculty Administrator and Manoa Writing Program Director will be able to broaden the criteria for consideration and isolate the persons to be recognized in time for a December Appreciation Luncheon.

FS Tutorial: Scott Rowland presented information about the FS designation to the Board. The handouts included an explanatory sheet addressing the Hallmarks by use of PHIL 110 and 111. The 2010 FS Working Group Report was also provided.

The meeting adjourned at 1pm.

Prepared by: Dawne Bost