

Minutes of the General Education Committee

January 25, 2016

QLC 208

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

Present: Hokulani Aikau, Ron Cambra, Kaitlyn Conner, Miguel Felipe, Alyssa Kapaona, Dore Minatodani, Mike Nassir, Kapa Oliveira, Kiana Shiroma, Maria Stewart, Ryan Yamaguchi

GEO Staff: Lisa Fujikawa, Vicky Keough

Excused: Bonnyjean Manini, Nori Tarui

1. Announcements

- **GEC member resignation/replacement.** Alyssa Kapaona was introduced as the tentative replacement for Nicole Iwasaki, who has left UHM for a position at Honolulu Community College.
- **Quantitative Reasoning (QR) update**
 - The resolution with the QR Hallmarks was discussed and passed at the last Faculty Senate meeting. The only revision was removal of the clause stating who would be responsible for implementation.
 - The Foundations Board met earlier today. The February meeting will be spent drafting the new proposal form. The Board will also work on a strategy for staggering Foundations-Quantitative Reasoning (FQ) review/approval.
 - FQ is also on the agenda for the Wednesday meeting of the Council of Chief Academic Officers (CCAO). Matt Romaniello, Mānoa's Foundations Board Chair and Chair of the System Foundations Board, will schedule a spring meeting to update the other campuses/Foundations Boards.
 - A question arose about FS renewal. The plan is to contact departments that offer FS courses to facilitate the transition from FS to FQ. Departments will be offered an opportunity to apply for a dual FS and FQ designation. There will also be support for departments wishing to convert their FS courses to FQ.
 - The GEC also discussed transition from FS to FQ. The current belief is that FS will exist for "a long time" after FQ goes into effect in Fall 2018, to accommodate those students who remain on a GenEd core year that still has FS. However, some GEC members felt that a "clean break" from FS to FQ would be better, in much the same way the 120-credit requirement and the elimination of Arts & Sciences' depth/breadth requirement were put into place for all students in the effective term. It was argued that it is easier to make exceptions for those students who need it than to maintain two sets of requirements. Kiana will raise the question with the Council of Academic Advisors (CAA) and will report back to the GEC.

2. Action Items

- **December 2, 2015 GEC meeting minutes** were approved as written.
- The **multiple-designation request for HON 301/POLS 386** was tabled until the next meeting because the GEC was not given enough time to review the proposal materials.

3. Discussion Items

- **Course-based designations: Is it possible for courses that have freshman seminar or other “special” sections (e.g., unit mastery) to get a course-based designation?**

Background: Ethnic Studies has a course that is taught with a HAP designation whenever it is offered by the faculty. The course is not designated with a HAP Focus when it is offered as a freshman seminar. The department would like to get a course-based HAP designation for ES 101, but does not want the designation added to the freshman seminar sections (clearly identifiable with its “3xx” section number(s)). They inquired whether this was possible.

Discussion:

- Traditionally, having a course-based designation means that all sections, regardless of time, instructor, section, mode of instruction, etc., are designated with the approved Focus. The one exception was made after the fact, and was given to the unit mastery section of two course-based W SPAN courses. (The unit mastery section is section 000 and is not posted on Class Availability.)
- ES 101 does not have a master syllabus, but the course has been approved for a HAP designation under multiple instructors. If the course were to receive a course-based designation, there would also be a Course Coordinator to oversee the sections and help maintain consistency.
- Several members were in favor of the exception if the department is willing to clearly differentiate between the Focus and non-Focus sections. The freshman seminar sections are already clearly differentiated by section number. It is also possible to add a note above the section in Class Availability for clarification.
- It was pointed out that course-based designations also require that the course description in the Catalog reflect the inherency of the Focus area. This is potentially problematic if not all sections meet the Focus requirement.
- One member wondered if the GEC’s decision would carry any weight with respect to different ways of teaching. Would strict adherence to the “all sections” requirement for course-based approvals discourage alternative methods of teaching?

Decision: The GEC voted 5-0-0 not to allow exceptions to the “all sections” policy for course-based Focus approvals. This means that course-based designations will continue to apply to all sections of the approved course, regardless of who is teaching the course or in what format. Ethnic Studies will be notified and given several options: a) apply for a course-based designation to offer all sections (including freshman seminars) with a HAP Focus all the time, b) keep submitted instructor-based proposals if certain sections will not carry the HAP Focus, or c) consider turning the course into an alpha course, with only one alpha carrying the course-based HAP Focus.

- **Focus credit for repeating a non-repeatable course that now has a Focus designation: Should this be allowed?**

Background: The GenEd Office (GEO) has received several inquiries on this topic in the last few months. It is made more relevant by the fact that students can now repeat passed courses for grade replacement.

Discussion:

- It was clarified that students are not auditing the course, nor are they necessarily taking it credit/no credit. The student simply does not receive any course credit for re-taking a non-repeatable course.
- Repeating a non-repeatable course can have financial implications, especially if the student is receiving financial aid.
- Admissions sometimes sees this problem (students wanting to repeat a non-repeatable course for Focus credit) with transfer students and students who have received AP credit for a course that is offered with a Focus designation at UHM.
- Some members felt that students should not be able to earn Focus credit in this situation; others felt that they should, especially because there may be other reasons for repeating the course (e.g., trying to get a better grade for admission to a particular School/College or grad program, gaining more experience in the subject).
- One member pointed out that the addition of the Focus designation changes the course and possibly warrants the repeat.
- How does STAR handle these re-takes? And how are advisors handling cases that they see? Kiana will inquire with STAR and CAA and will report back to the GEC.

4. Next meeting: February 22, 2016 from 3:00-4:30 p.m., location TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder