

## Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

QLC 208

Attendees: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Dore Minatodani, Sarita Rai, Stacey Roberts, Scott Rowland, Amy Schiffner, Todd Sammons (GEO), Carolyn Stephenson (SEC), Comfort Sumida, Dwane Tegman (ASUH), Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

GEO support staff: Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa

Excused: Joy Logan (sabbatical), Wei Zhang

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of **minutes** was deferred until the May meeting.
2. **Multiple Designation Focus Requests**
  - a. **Ruth Mabanglo's E, O, and W request for IP 368B** was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.
  - b. **Aurelio Agcaoili's E, O, and W request for IP 377** was also approved by a vote of 6-0-0.
3. **Course-based Focus Designation Requests**
  - a. **ICS 390** was unanimously approved for renewed E, O, and W Focus designations by a vote of 7-0-0. The only question was whether the email feedback was in the form of general comments or specific notations on the writing assignments.
  - b. **BUS 345** is the final course in a sequence of courses, the sum of which meets the E Focus Hallmarks. Because of the length of the proposal (which included syllabi for all courses in the sequence) and the confusion caused by the wrong information being posted on Laulima initially, a vote on the proposal was tabled until the 4/16/13 meeting.
  - c. **FAMR 380** was approved for an E Focus by a vote of 6-0-1.
  - d. **KRS 395** was approved for an E Focus by a vote of 7-0-0.
    - Todd reminded the group that there are two ways for a Focus area to be inherent: 1) by virtue of the course content or 2) because the department commits to offering all sections in accordance with the Focus Hallmarks. In the case of KRS 395, the department made the commitment to teach all sections by the E Hallmarks.
    - While the Hallmarks were much more explicitly addressed in one syllabus than the other, the GEC felt that the course overall met the E Hallmarks.
  - e. **NURS 363** was approved for an E Focus by a vote of 8-0-0 (including a vote from Wei, who posted her comments and vote on Laulima).
    - Several members felt that the syllabi provided were inconsistent and that the Course Coordinator should be alerted.
    - It was pointed out that Nursing has a national code of ethics, which is used as the framework for the course.
    - As a point of information, Ryan let the GEC know that Nursing would soon be offering its RN to BSN Program on the neighbor islands. As part of the program, UH Maui College was expected to offer NURS 363 with an E Focus. Scott suggested that the approval memo to the department include a reminder to make sure that the UHMC course meets the E Hallmarks.
  - f. **EE 496** was rejected for an O Focus by a vote of 1-6-1 (again, including Wei's vote).
    - Members agreed that while one syllabus was "terrific," the inadequacy of the second syllabus made it difficult to approve the proposal. In short, the GEC was uncomfortable approving the proposal with so many discrepancies between syllabi.

- Dore will contact the department to get more information, with the hope that it will be provided in time to be considered at the 4/16/13 GEC meeting.
- g. **OCN 490** was rejected for an O Focus by a vote of 0-7-0.
  - Dawne said that in making their recommendation, the O Board may have been including class discussion and questions to guest speakers as applicable oral communication activities.
  - Todd added that the O Board had voted to include information oral presentations (such as discussions) as meeting the O Hallmarks.
  - Scott felt that the primary concern was that training and feedback were not adequately addressed. Dore will ask the department to speak to this concern.
- h. **SPAN 303** was unanimously approved for an O Focus by a vote of 8-0-0.
- i. **LING 150B** was unanimously approved for a HAP Focus by a vote of 8-0-0.
  - One concern was that most readings seemed to be *about* rather than *by* Pacific Islanders. However, it was pointed out that the Linguistics Society requires a “Native voice” to consult on all writings.
  - At least one member felt that the argument for Native voice was much stronger in the LING 150C proposal. The courses are essentially the same, differing only in mode of instruction.
- j. **LING 150C** was approved for both a HAP and a W Focus by a vote of 7-0-1.
- k. **LING 102** was unanimously approved for a W Focus by a vote of 8-0-0.
- l. **CHEM 425L** was rejected for a W Focus by a vote of 3-5-0.
  - Several members wanted more information on feedback, although one member felt that the reference to a “critique” on the rubric was sufficient.
  - Dore will contact the department for additional information.
- m. **CHEM 445L** was unanimously approved for a W Focus by a vote of 8-0-0.
- n. **KRS 354L** was approved for a W Focus by a vote of 7-0-1.

#### 4. Focus Exemption Requests

- a. **Sandra’s W Focus Exemption** request was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
  - There was some concern that the Sandra contributed more to the collection of data than to the write-up of the study. However, it was pointed out that she did write a 4,000 word paper which was reviewed by the instructor.
  - Members also agreed that it was better to write about one’s own research than to write about something that someone else has done.
- b. **Alexandria’s O Focus Exemption** request was approved by a vote of 5-0-3.
  - The Board discussed Alexandria’s backstage management experience at length.
  - Amy supported the request, saying that oral communication is an essential part of a stage manager’s job. She felt that training would be required in order to do the job effectively, and that feedback would be immediate.
  - Scott also supported the request, because he felt that the experience clearly supported the student’s career goals.
  - There was some concern that the GEC was considering factors that were not explicitly stated in the request. Dawne told the GEC that in other instances (e.g., transfer credit evaluations), the move was toward reviewing proposals based on the information that is provided, without consideration for additional, often personal, information.

**NEXT MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 1:00 p.m., location TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder*