

General Education Committee
November 30, 2007
Hawai'i Hall 208
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Jane Schoonmaker, Chair.

Present: Lynne Higa, Susan Johnson, Mike Kirk-Kuwaye, Mike Nassir, Jane Schoonmaker, Carolyn Stephenson, George Wong.
Ron Cambra, Bob Campbell (FRAUM), Linda Cox (SEC), June Nii for Jan Heu, Tom Hilgers (GEO), Monica Stitt-Bergh (GEO)

Absent: John Engel

MINUTES AND LIAISON REPORTS: Minutes of the November 16, 2007 meeting were approved with one correction (Mike Nassir was absent), along with the liaison report from the Foundations Board.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chair's reports
 - GEO Advisory Board met on November 11, 2007. Agreed to send out draft assessment preamble to all the boards for feedback. Deadline for input/comments is December 5.
 - Windward CC will sign HAP agreement. Kapi'olani CC will sign HAP agreement (per David Chin).
 - Numbers of S08 Focus sections reflect change (decrease in W- and O-Focus sections), but sufficient. Stitt-Bergh added that E, O, and W courses are nearly half filled; currently all seniors and half of the juniors have registered.
 - Diversification review results are forthcoming.
 - E focus workshop will be held on January 23, 2008.
2. Vote on Foundations Board Renewals - The Foundations Board recommended approval for renewal of HIST 161A (FG), HIST 162A (FG), MATH 215 (FS), and MATH 241/251A (FS). The General Education Committee approved all of these recommendations. (NOTE: MATH 251A is the honors version of MATH 241.)
3. Assessment Update (Hilgers) – Per Hilgers' conversation with Peter Quigley:
 - Negotiations with a proposed Director continue
 - Plan to start assessment office in January
 - Two faculty support position descriptions are still in OHR
 - Quigley open to GEO acquiring a graduate assistant for the proposed pilot involving O and E Focus.
 - Stitt-Bergh will write up GA job description in December for submission to Quigley.
 - Quigley will try to learn if our SR requirement will satisfy WASC's quantitative skills requirement.
4. Advising initiative
 - Cambra reported that starting Fall 08, academic advising for freshmen and sophomores is mandatory. In Fall 07, all colleges were required to put together a plan of academic advising. Funds for additional advisors were released recently. A new advising center will be established for students without a declared major.
 - Cambra also reported that starting Fall 08 it will be mandatory for students to declare a major by the junior level (i.e., at 55 credits) and there will be holds placed on registration if the student is non-compliant. Delays in declaring a major can hinder graduation in 4 years.

Discussion:

--Common applications to UHM currently have a question where (it is implied that) you must declare a major. This question should be removed, made optional, or explained.

--RE "undeclared" applicants: A&R will consider undergraduate applicants who do not declare a major for classified status into General Arts and Sciences (GEAS). Those who hold a bachelor's degree will be considered for post-baccalaureate unclassified (PBU) status and if accepted, into Outreach College (the umbrella college for all unclassified students).

--Concern was raised for transfers students (approximately 600 UH and 1,000 non-UH transfers) who may not be aware that a hold will be placed if they have not declared a major or received advising. At present, mandatory advising is required of SOEST, CTHAR, ARCH, ENG, EDUC and all Arts and Humanities majors.

--Question: Did these two changes in advising make the '08-'09 catalog deadline?

--Question: Could the Institutional Research Office collect data on student paths to graduation in a timely manner?

--80 % of students at new student orientation are undecided about their major.

--The GEC has to be clear on its role in relation to advising.

--UHM needs to get all faculty members excited about advising and helping students through undergraduate programs.

Action: Schoonmaker, Stephenson, Kirk-Kuwaye, and Cox to meet as subcommittee to determine proposed advising language that could be presented to SEC's CAPP and CSA.

WRAP UP

--Schoonmaker, Stephenson, Kirk-Kuwaye, and Cox will form subcommittee to devise wording for proposal to SEC's CAPP and CSA concerning advising issues.

--Diversification subcommittee will meet on Monday, December 3rd; GEC can handle any voting on changes via email or by another meeting.

--Spring 2008 meeting time: first meeting will be Friday, January 18, 10:30-11:30. Keep Fridays 10:30-11:30 and Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 open.

Next meeting (tentative): Friday, December 7, 2007, 9:00-9:45 a.m. in Hawai'i Hall 208.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder