

General Education Committee  
October 16, 2006  
Hawai'i Hall 208  
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by the chair.

Present: Helen Baroni (chair), Richard Bigus, John Engel, Jon Goss, Susan Johnson, George Wong.  
Ron Cambra (OVCAA), David Chin (SEC), Jan Heu (A&R), Tom Hilgers (GEO), Ruth Kleinfeld (emeritus), Todd Sammons.

Absent: Cristina Bacchilega, Megumi Taniguchi, Helene Sokugawa (OVCAA)

MINUTES: The minutes and liaison reports of October 2, 2006, were approved as submitted.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. WASC Draft Proposal (Baroni)

- GEC discussed the draft (attached).
- Chin, SEC liaison, will report today's discussion to the SEC.
- Background information:
  - IVCAA Kelly Aune handles UHM assessment with input from assessment advisory group.
  - Faculty Senate will consider forming a Senate Task Force on Assessment at its 10/18/06 meeting. (agenda attached)
- Discussion focused on WASC draft section A.1.iii, Assessment of General Education (p. 3-4), in particular the statement that there is "...growing consensus that UHM should make use of the developed student learning technologies ... (e.g., Collegiate Learning Assessment, Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency)."
  - The draft does not reflect faculty position: where is evidence of "growing consensus"?
  - A national exam administered to exiting seniors was cited as having the advantage of allowing for comparison with other institutions.
    - Primary purpose of gen ed assessment is not comparing UHM with other institutions.
    - Getting students to participate in such testing is a problem.
    - Has exam been reviewed in terms of meeting UHM's assessment needs?
  - Best assessment measures are developed by faculty.
    - UHM's gen ed has unique aspects that need to be addressed.
    - Some of UHM's gen ed is embedded in the major; gen ed experience will be different in different majors. How will a standardized exam assess these differences?
    - How do we measure the types of growth and development fostered by the gen ed program?
    - Gathering "base-line data" as a first step would satisfied WASC at USC–e.g., asking students in class whether they learned xyz.
    - Assessment might be tied in to pre-graduation advising sessions that students attend as juniors and as seniors.

- Any faculty assessment effort would require resources and funding.
  - When GEC was asked to do assessment of gen ed a few years ago it responded that it lacked resources (manpower and funding); Aune offered to include gen ed in the assessment efforts of OVCAA.
  - Faculty participation calls for more “service” from faculty; faculty are hard pressed with current responsibilities without adding unrewarded “service.”
  - A national exam would be cheaper.
- WASC representative Ralph Wolff (during visit last week):
  - WASC requires institutions to have learning outcomes and to measure achievement in light of learning outcomes. WASC wants to see assessment methodology and how it’s used to improve student learning.
- Call for a Faculty Senate (FS) Task Force
  - FS discussion will focus on direction UH should take with assessment.
  - Possible options: a) joint committee comprised of representatives from FS and OVCAA; b) add to GEO and have several faculty members assigned to work, e.g., half-time, for 2-3 years, on assessment.

## 2. Focus recommendations (Hilgers)

### a. *Focus Board Recommendations: Spring 2007 Proposals* was distributed (attached).

–MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve all recommended instructor + course combinations except for WS 495. The motion passed unanimously.

–MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the recommended course-based designations for ITE 312, 313, 314, 322, 391C, 391S, and 406, subject to confirmation by Baroni that the Catalog course descriptions are satisfactory. The motion passed unanimously.

[Baroni confirmed that the descriptions for all except 406 satisfactorily reflect the W Focus. ITE 406: conditional approval pending a copy of the UHM-2 form modifying the course description.]

–WS 495, request for 3 designations: Baroni will consult with board chairs before making a recommendation to GEC.

### b. Conditional course-based approvals (Hilgers)

Modified course descriptions were received for 2 courses conditionally approved last spring for F06 O Focus course-based designations: GG 410 and ITE 343 (attached).

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve as submitted the modified course description for GG 410; O Focus approval effective F06-Sum 09. The motion passed.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve ITE 343’s modified course description with the text suggested by the O Board chair: replace “Development of oral communication skills.” with “Training, practice and evaluation of oral communication skills.” If ITE accepts, O Focus approval will be effective F06-Sum 09. The motion passed.

GEO will notify the chairs of the decisions.

3. A&R Diversification recommendations (Heu)

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the following as recommended:

–Maui CC's ASTRO 110L, DY eff. F06–Sum 11

–WCC's MET 101L, DY eff. S07–F11

The motion passed.

WRAP UP:

1. Course requesting 3 designations: Baroni will consult with board chairs before making a recommendation to the GEC.

Next meeting: Monday, 10/30/06, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Hawai'i 208.

If you have any agenda items, please email Baroni <hbaroni@hawaii.edu>.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Mueller-Ali, Recorder