

Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair Scott Rowland.

Present: Ernestine Enomoto, Lynne Higa, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Todd Sammons, Galen Sasaki, Mamoru Sato, Carolyn Stephenson

Ex officio: Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Garrett Inoue (A&R), Steve Rola (A&R)

Support staff: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

Excused: Tom Hilgers (GEO), Susan Hippensteele (SEC)

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Minutes of December 2, 2009 were approved unanimously.
2. Voting by GEC
 - **ICS 390** course-based E, O, W
 - Vote: 4 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstained.
 - **ES 455** C H, O, W - Castanha
 - Concern raised about triple designations; skepticism on how O- and W-focus could be effectively offered in the same course.
 - Vote: 5 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstained.
 - Approval memo to be sent with O-Board concerns (GEO to ask O Board for Language).
 - **LLL 150** (FG renewal)
 - Recommended unanimously by Foundations Board.
 - Vote: 7 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.
3. What is FS? Working Group
 - First meeting to be convened by Mike Nassir and Mike Kirk-Kuwaye.
 - GEO to provide group with documents (Margit Watt's 6-pg report of FS issues raised; a list of issues GEC wants them to deal with; syllabi and original proposals for FS courses; FS data collected; FS Hallmarks; initial Faculty Senate language re: FS; WASC criteria for GenEd.)
 - Have the group look at how FS meets WASC requirements.
 - It is good for the group to know what WASC/accreditation wants.
 - If the group needs clarification about WASC requirements, Cambra suggests they contact WASC and raise the issue.
4. Discussion – 400-level Diversification courses
 - 42% of Diversification courses are at 400 level.
 - Some departments have Diversification courses only at the 400-level.
 - Reconsider removing 400-level Diversification designation only if course has a prerequisite with the same Diversification designation?

- Some Department Chairs argue Diversification designation is a reason for keeping low enrollment classes open.
- How many students are meeting Diversification requirements with 400-level courses?
- There appears to be a lack of (faculty) understanding of Focus versus Diversification, and what GenEd designation makes a course “attractive” to students.
- Cambra will try to obtain data on how many students are using upper division courses to fulfill Diversification.
- Some low-enrolled 400-level courses are actually being used as a “culture course” substitution (for the language requirement), although it may appear to be non-essential.
- In C of Ed, the EDEF and EDEP 400-level courses are actually for graduate students.
- Should GEC defer sending memo to SEC until after additional data is obtained? Response: yes.

5. Update on Recent WASC Visit

- Committee appeared impressed, no additional questions were raised by the visitors.
- Concerns raised:
 - a) Assessment issues
 - b) Learning outcomes

Note: Those are issues being raised across the board, nationwide, not just UH.

UH Response: “We’re working on them.”
- Reviewers also said UH doesn’t “brag” enough/highlight the things we are successful at.
 - Comment: it should be WASC’s duty to “brag” about an institution’s specific trait(s).
- Reviewers excited about institutional outcomes (“MUGLOS”).
- GenEd flyer was given to reviewers. Suggestion: to add GenEd goals and then produce an informational GenEd handout/brochure for distribution to new faculty (or send electronically).

Wrap up:

1. GEO to locate Foundations Board document with list of concerns/issues re FS (from 2002-03) .
2. GEO to scan/upload to Lulima FS proposals and syllabi for working group’s use.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Next meeting: January 20, 2010, 1:30 p.m., HH 208.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder