

General Education Committee
November 16, 2007
Hawai'i Hall 208
Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Jane Schoonmaker, Chair.

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

Absent: Mike Nassir and Carolyn Stephenson

MINUTES AND LIAISON REPORTS: Minutes were approved with one correction (typographical error in WRAP UP section -- Schoonmaker's surname).

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chair's reports

--WASC Special Visit – WASC visitor, Scott Evenbeck, IUPUI, focused on mapping general education requirements to WASC core competencies as preparation for the next WASC visit. In light of that concern, GEO is trying to get clarification of one such competency, “college-level quantitative skills.” Cambra will raise this with VCAA Johnsrud.

--Meeting with Chancellor Hinshaw – Hilgers, Schoonmaker, and Higa met with the Chancellor on November 1, 2007 to explain the General Education Program. Hinshaw commented on the low number of learning communities at UHM; emphasized increasing UHM's retention rates; showed concern that Gen Ed might be an impediment to graduation; had trouble understanding the distinction between “Gen Ed” and “college” requirements (which may be largely a communication issue).

Discussion: To show overlaps of college and Gen Ed requirements, Kirk-Kuwaye created a matrix so there would be no confusion on the student's part. The matrix might be updated. Cambra stated that the Chancellor's difficulty might rally support for mandatory freshman advising and academic planning. Kirk-Kuwaye stated that expanded advising would require resources. Stitt-Bergh noted Evenbeck's praise for the IUPUI program in which freshmen meet with their advisors 15 times in the first year. (Currently at UHM, only Athletics, ROTC and Veteran Affairs require 4-year plans of their students.)

The GEC may ask the SEC to join in the discussion of student advising and mentoring. The Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP) and the Committee on Student Affairs (CSA) of the Mānoa Faculty Senate might together with GEC submit a plan to improve student academic advising to the Chancellor by the end of this academic year.

--Update on Office of Assessment initiative –Peter Quigley has not yet been successful in locating prospective faculty head (via release time) for the office; talks about a possible .5 FTE are ongoing. Two new tenure-track faculty positions are also being funded.

Hilgers mentioned the idea of the General Education Office looking into S08 assessment projects within GEO. He recommended forming a GEC subcommittee to talk about what the GEO might do until an actual UHM Office of Assessment is up and running.

2. Assessment preamble – Discussion:

--Question re wording: “outcomes” vs. “objectives.” Possible alternative wording: “Desired student outcomes/course objectives.”

--Current draft of preamble will be sent to the Foundations Board for its review, then GEC will circulate the preamble to all boards for review.

3. Diversification – vote to articulate.

Action: GEC approved articulation of UHH BIOL 175 (DB), UHH BIOL 176 (DB), UHH BIOL 175L (DY), UHH BIOL 176L (DY). (Note: these are not course-for-course equivalents to any UHM offerings, but taken all together are equivalent to UHM BIOL 171/L-172/L.)

Hilgers reminded GEC that there are funds for meetings of UH disciplinary groups (one example is the MATH system group, which will next meet in January, 2008).

4. Diversification vote

Action: GEC approved UHM TPSS 220 (DY), UHM TPSS /ARCH 353 (DA).

5. Focus exemption application

Discussion: Engel questioned whether the application met the 2nd hallmark, training in OC language concerns. Kirk-Kuwaye asked whether approval of this application would open the floodgates: all transfer students would apply for an exemption. Stitt-Bergh reminded GEC that the Focus experience must be “extraordinary” and transfer courses do not meet that criterion. Because the study abroad course was taught by a non-UH instructor, it was not eligible for a Focus designation but the student did get UHM credit for a Spanish course. When the GEC approved the change from the Wild Card to Focus Exemption, it allowed course-based experiences in part so that students who participated in the UHM Study Abroad Program would not be penalized. Engel stated that GEC could benefit from an O-Board recommendation.

Action: GEC approved this focus exemption application.

WRAP UP

--Hilgers and Cambra will seek clarification of the WASC competency, “college-level quantitative skills.”

--GEO will send the revised assessment preamble to Foundations Board.

--The GEC will discuss a possible advising initiative at the next meeting.

--If any members wished to serve on assessment subcommittee (to discuss what GEO should do during interim before UH Assessment Office starts up), please email Schoonmaker.

Next meeting: Friday, November 30, 2007, 9:00 a.m., Hawai'i 208.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder.