

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, December 4, 2013
12:00-1:00p.m., Hawaii Hall 208

Attendees: Ron Cambra (OUE), Pete Garrod, Bob Joseph, Joy Logan, Sarita Rai, Stacey Roberts, Scott Rowland, Todd Sammons (GEO), Elisabeth Seamon (ASUH), Kiana Shiroma, Carolyn Stephenson (SEC), Ryan Yamaguchi (Admissions)

GEO support staff: Dawne Bost, Lisa Fujikawa

Excused: Amy Schiffner

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. Todd distributed appreciation gifts and Stacey provided lunch, thanking everyone for their hard work and diligence on the committee.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Minutes** from the November 20 meeting were approved as amended. Minutes from November 13 will be voted on at the next GEC meeting.
2. **Instructor-based multiple Focus designation requests for Spring 2014**
 - a. **Ellen Rae-Cachola's E, H, and W Focus request for ES 381** was approved by a vote of 6-1-0.
 - The GEC's discussion centered on the E Focus. At least one member felt that there wasn't a sufficient amount of ethics content in the course.
 - Several members had concerns about "ethical relativism." However, it appears on the Markuula website, making it a viable framework. (An "ethical framework" was described as the perspective/common theme in which ethics are discussed.)
 - The GEC agreed that the topics in the course were ethical, but some felt that the instructor didn't clearly communicate how the ethical framework would be applied to the different topics.
 - The E Board was focused on the fact that the course is taught online but otherwise were generally satisfied with the course.
 - b. **Haaheo Guanson and Kaleo Patterson's E, O, and W Focus request for PACE 485** was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. *Note: There were two proposals for this course (Hooponopono & Indigenous Peacemaking) posted on Laulima because the course is a topics course.*
 - O Board liaison Joy reported that the O Board originally had questions about the discrepancies between the O Focus chart and the syllabus. However, the questions were answered when the Board followed up with the instructors.
 - Joy also asked the O Board about class discussion, and it was explained that the Board considered it to be akin to informal writing assignments for the W Focus.
 - Dawne clarified that "low stakes" oral communication activities can be counted when determining fulfillment of the O Hallmarks as long as the activities are structured. She gave as an example small group discussion, which would be "counted" when students are provided with guidance and feedback but not when the discussion occurs without any clear direction.
3. **Revised requests (Focus, Foundations, Focus Exemption)**
 - a. **Loren Gautz's E Focus request for BE 482** was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. The O & W Focus designations were previously approved at the 11/20 GEC meeting.

- b. The **FGB request for SOCS 180** was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
- Several GEC members met with course instructor Manfred Steger to get more information about the course and how it is perceived to meet the FG Hallmarks. Manfred also provided a written response to the GEC, which was forwarded to the rest of the committee.
 - The meeting with Manfred convinced several GEC members that the course does meet the FG Hallmarks. The problem is that the written proposal doesn't convey the same information that Manfred provided verbally at the meeting.
 - At least one person felt that the course as currently described may have problems if/when it comes up for renewal. Her concern centered around the instructor's focus on the convergence of cultures, rather than on each region's distinctions. She felt that the course lacked a grounding element in individual cultures.
 - Another member felt that the idea of convergence was important, and that it provided students with an understanding of where "globalization" comes from.
 - It was pointed out that this is not a chronological history course, so the unit of analysis is not nation states. Instead, the focus is on connections between these states (e.g., looking at trade routes).
 - One member felt that the Hallmarks require that the course be a history course in some sense, because students should learn how the different regions have changed over time.
 - Several members felt that this course represents a paradigm shift, because the course content is not presented chronologically.
 - The general consensus was that the course "doesn't have to be perfect" in order to be approved for the first time. This is one of the reasons why the GEC decided to approve new courses for only three years (versus the original five).
- c. The **revised E Focus Exemption request for Abbey** was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
- Stacey contacted the students with the GEC's concerns after the last meeting, and Abbey responded right away.
 - Members felt that the revised request better addressed the E Hallmarks.

4. **STAFF multiple designation requests for Spring 2014**

- a. The unstaffed Spring 2014 section of **IP 364** was approved for an E and W designation by a vote of 7-0-1. The O Board did not recommend approval, and the GEC followed that recommendation.
- b. Similarly, the unstaffed Spring 2014 section of **IP 368B** was approved for an E and W designation by a vote of 7-0-1. Again, the O Board did not recommend approval, and the GEC followed that recommendation.

5. **Instructor-based multiple Focus designation requests for Fall 2013**

- a. **Nadenza Ortega's IP 364** was approved for a W designation only by a vote of 8-0-0. The E and O Focus requests were not approved.
- b. **Jeffrey Acido's IP 364** was also approved for the W only by a vote of 8-0-0. Again, the E and O Focus requests were not approved.
- c. **Abraham Flores Jr.'s E, O, and W request for IP 377** was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
- d. **Julius Soria's E, O, and W request for IP 398** was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS and ANNOUNCEMENTS were tabled until the January 2014 meeting. Lisa will send out a "when is good" survey to find a Spring 2014 meeting time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder