

## **Minutes of the General Education Committee**

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Hawai'i Hall 208

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Present: Hokulani Aikau, Ron Cambra, Kaitlyn Conner, Nicole Iwasaki, Dore Minatodani, Kapa Oliveira, Kiana Shiroma, Maria Stewart, Nori Tarui, Ryan Yamaguchi, Lisa Fujikawa, Vicky Keough

Excused: Miguel Felipe, Bonnyjean Manini, Mike Nassir

### **1. Course-based Focus requests**

- The **W Focus request for ANSC/FSHN 492** was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.
- The **W Focus request for CHEM 352L** was approved by a vote of 5-0-2.
- The **W Focus request for KRS 488** was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. Several members had questions/concerns about one of the syllabi. Hoku said that the W Board had had the same concerns, and in response the department created a master syllabus that all instructors would be expected to follow.
- The **O Focus request for MATH 480** was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. There was a question about the fact that grading is credit/no credit. However, Lisa explained that courses can still have a GenEd designation if that is the only grading option.
- The **W Focus request for NREM 301L** was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. The GenEd Office (GEO) will follow up with the department to make sure that the Course Coordinator is a faculty member.
- The **W Focus request for NURS 301** was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. Several members were confused by the way the information was presented on the W chart. Once it was explained that all the information on the chart was for one master syllabus, the GEC approved the request.
- The **W Focus request for NURS 460L** was approved by a vote of 5-1-1. Several members felt that the sample syllabi did not clearly indicate how the W Hallmarks were being met, while others felt that the information was present but difficult to extract. One member noted that the W Board was recommending the course for a course-based designation and had also approved "instructor-based" proposals for the 9 instructors who are teaching the course this semester. Another felt that if this were the case, the sample syllabi submitted were poorly chosen, which gave her little confidence in the Course Coordinator. The GEC ultimately voted to approve, which enables the Spring 2016 sections to be designated before regular continuing student registration begins on Monday.
- The **W Focus request for POLS 110A** (Honors sections only) was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. The GEC agreed with the GEO's position that "A" sections of courses can receive course-based Focus designations without the "regular" sections being given the same designation. However, the reverse cannot occur; if a "regular" course is given a course-based Focus designation, all Honors ("A") sections are also given the same designation.

- 2. Foundations proposals and Focus Exemption requests** were tabled until the next meeting. Two other Focus proposals (one course-based, one for multiple designations) will be posted on Laulima for the GEC to vote on by 8:30am Friday (11/20). The GEO will ask the instructor of the multiple designation request to provide the most recent version of the course syllabus for the GEC to review. This version should incorporate all of the changes requested by all of the Boards.



### 3. Revised Quantitative Reasoning (QR) Hallmarks

*Background:* The original QR Hallmarks developed by the QR Working Group were revised by the QR Ad Hoc Committee based on the feedback recently solicited/received from the UH community. The revised Hallmarks were then brought back to members of the Committee on Academic Policy & Planning (CAPP) for additional input. The current version being presented to the GEC incorporates both the feedback from the wider UH community and suggestions from CAPP.

*Discussion:*

- **Whether or not the requirement is at the collegiate level.** CAPP raised this question again when the two groups met to discuss the Hallmarks. It was suggested that the FQ language be revised to mirror the FW language in the Catalog, which states that FW introduces students to writing “at the college level.” The proposed revision would add “at the college level” to the end of the sentence following the bullet points in the introduction so that the sentence reads, “The primary goal of FQ courses is to teach mathematical reasoning and tools *at the college level.*” (italics reflects the addition)
- **First sentence of the introduction, “FQ courses should strive...”** The GEC discussed whether to delete “should,” “strive,” both, or leave as is. In the end, it was decided to delete “should” so that the opening sentence reads, “FQ courses strive to impart an appreciation for the relevance and usefulness of quantitative reasoning.”
- **Examples of training for graduate students/peer tutors** (second bullet under Hallmark #3). The GEC agreed to change “faculty mentorship and guidance” to “other regular guidance and supervision by faculty,” because they felt that ‘mentorship’ implied more hands-on training and guidance than they felt was needed. The GEC also discussed deleting the phrase “start-of-semester” before “TA training” to make the example more general. However, because the phrase refers to the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) TA training and also suggests that departments provide “start-of-semester” training for their TAs, the decision was made to leave the phrase in.
- The changes to **Hallmark #4b** were made at the suggestion of several people who found the original wording to be too constricting. While some members felt that “estimation, modeling, and data analysis” should be kept in the Hallmark as examples, perhaps parenthetically, the decision was ultimately made to adopt the changes as presented.

*Decision:* The GEC voted 6-0-0 to approve the Hallmarks as revised. It was then announced that the revised Hallmarks would not go forward to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and Faculty Senate for a vote at the December 9 meeting as previously hoped. Instead, the revised Hallmarks will be forwarded to CAPP, which requires 45 days to review all materials. CAPP’s next meeting is December 2. The hope is that CAPP will be able to review the revised QR Hallmarks and have information ready for the SEC to review before the January 20 Faculty Senate meeting.

4. **Liaison reports and discussion items** will be put on the December meeting agenda.

5. **Next meeting: Wednesday, December 9** (10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Hawaii Hall

208) Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

*Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder*