

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

12:00-1:00p.m., QLC 208

Attendees: Pete Garrod, Bob Joseph, Joy Logan, 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: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Sarita Rai, Amy Schiffner

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. **Minutes** from the November 6 meeting were approved as amended. There were no minutes from November 13.
2. **Foundations (FGB) proposal for SOCS 180** was returned to the proposers by a vote of 1-5-0.
 - One concern was that the course is heavily weighted in the present and does not really illustrate development over time from 1500 to the present (the time period covered by an FGB course).
 - There was also the question of whether different perspectives were being provided, with at least one member being concerned about the lack of primary sources.
 - The Foundations Board recommended approval, although they had many of the same concerns that the GEC expressed. Primary sources are not required, so the Board felt the course met the letter of the requirement.
 - It was suggested that the issue of primary sources be addressed, perhaps with an Explanatory Note.
 - Another concern was the omission of European interactions with the Americas and the Pacific.
 - After a long discussion, the GEC decided to go back to the proposers for more explanation of the contents of the textbook and how the course covers development over time (Hallmarks 1, 2, and 6). Stacey will follow up.
3. **Course-based Focus proposals**
 - a. **W Focus for SPAN 301** was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.
 - b. **O Focus for BUS 345** was rejected by a vote of 0-6-0.
 - When the O Board voted unanimously to recommend approval, Joy (O Board liaison) asked the Board to provide the GEC with a short summary of their rationale. The Board provided a copy of the email that was sent to the department, which outlined their concerns and their conditions for recommending approval.
 - At least one GEC member was concerned about training. Joy agreed, saying that while a rubric was provided to show how students were being assessed, she didn't remember how training was addressed.
 - The GEC felt that the proposal had potential but wanted more information from the department. Stacey will follow up.

4. Multiple designation Focus proposals

- a.** The **O and W Focus for BE 482** was approved by a vote of 6-0-0. The same vote approved contacting the instructor to renegotiate the E Focus.
 - The O Board recommended approval after requesting and receiving an assessment rubric. The W Board also recommended approval after receiving a revised syllabus.
 - The E Board had some concerns but felt that the instructor had provided all the information that he was going to give them. They also wondered if/how the instructor would effectively cover all three Focus areas but acknowledged that that was the GEC's kuleana.
 - One GEC member said he could see how two designations (e.g., E and W, O and W) could be effectively covered. Another felt that the course covered O and W sufficiently, but not E.
 - Because students are only required to take one E course, the GEC felt it was important to be "hard nosed" to ensure that the course was "solid." Dawne said the E Board gave some consideration to the idea that Engineering has other ethics components in its majors.
 - In the end, the GEC's concern about the E Focus resulted in the decision to have Stacey follow up with the instructor to get more specifics to help the GEC understand how the course meets the E Hallmarks.
- b.** **ES 381** and **PACE 485/SW 480** were tabled until the December 4 meeting.

5. Discussion items

- a.** **DS from two different departments; change to two different subject alphas?**
- b.** **Articulation of HawCC and UH Hilo courses** was tabled until the December 4 meeting.
- c.** A **Spring 2014 meeting time** will be determined with a "when is good" survey.

6. Announcements

Stacey heard back from Abbey, who will be submitting a revised Focus Exemption request.

- 7. The next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, December 4 from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in Bilger 106. (The group decided to extend the meeting half an hour, given the full agenda.)

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder