

Minutes of the General Education Committee
Wednesday, February 25, 2009
Hawai'i Hall 208

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Mike Kirk-Kuwaye.

Present: Mike Kirk-Kuwaye, Mike Nassir, Scott Rowland, Carolyn Stephenson, George Wong

Ex officio: Ron Cambra (OVCAA), Jan Heu (A&R), David Ross (SEC)

Guests: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Duane Henry (GEO), Tom Hilgers (GEO),
Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder)

Excused: Lynne Higa, Susan Johnson

MINUTES: Minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting along with liaison reports were accepted and approved as submitted.

ACTION and INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Tentative meeting schedule: due to prioritization process survey deadlines, we are postponing the GEC meeting originally scheduled for March 4th to March 11th. We may meet on March 18th (the week before spring break) unless voting members agree to online voting.
2. Focus proposals for vote: voting members agreed to do electronic voting by Friday, February 27th regarding 6 course-based proposals.

Diversification and Foundations recommendations were approved last week with 5 “yes” votes for the courses listed below (via online vote). All changes will be effective F09 **except for AMST 482 (S10).**

Course	Title	Recommendation	Made by:
AMST 354	American Travel Writing	DH	Div subcommittee (2/11)
AMST 480	Approaches to American Studies	DH	Div subcommittee (2/11)
AMST 482	Senior Capstone Project	None (deny DH)	Div subcommittee (2/11)
ANTH 325	Origins of Cities	DS	Div subcommittee (2/11)
ANTH 375	Race and Human Variation	DS	Div subcommittee (2/11)
ANTH 380	Archaeological Lab Techniques	DS	Div subcommittee (2/18)
ANTH 467	Biomedicine and Culture	DS	Div subcommittee (2/11)
GEOG 468	Topics in Geography	None (remove DS)	Div subcommittee (2/18)
PACS 201	Islands of Globalization	DS	Div subcommittee (2/11)
ENG 190	Composition I for Transfer Students	FW	Foundations Board (2/13)

3. FW update
 - From Fall 2009, ENG 100 will be only for freshmen (students with 0-24 credits). Freshmen who do not complete FW by their 24th UHM credit will have to take the course over the summer or at a community college.
 - ENG 190 is a new FW course for transfer students with 25+ credits.
 - Backlog has been eliminated.
4. FG data/discussion. Henry distributed handout.

- Results appear to be similar to FS.
- Fully one-third of the cohort complete the requirement by the end of second semester.
- Questions/suggestions
 - How many FG seats are available/filled each semester?
 - Are there certain majors with sequencing issues? Could it be advisor-related? What keeps students from completing the requirement in their first year?
 - How many students took 3+ FG courses? Were they for the major?
 - Take a random sampling of students, follow their F course-taking patterns.
 - Check with MAC after the second semester of mandatory advising to see if they notice any patterns.

GEC decided to obtain and review additional FG data from GEO (e.g., number of seats filled by class standing) before forwarding a request to the Foundations Board.

5. FS update/discussion

Both GEC and Foundations Board agreed that it was a matter of “*Can* they (the students) complete the FS requirement in the first year?” versus “*Should* they?”

Among the matters discussed:

- It seems like it’s not necessary and sometimes not feasible for students to take FS in first year.
 - Is it better to have students declare their major (required by the end of sophomore year) before taking FS? (Rationale: Some majors require a specific FS course.)
 - Unlike FG and FW, FS has 200-level courses, which gives the impression that students may take them in their first two years.
 - If the requirement is changed, GEC must take it to Faculty Senate (who originally made it a first-year requirement).
 - Could Faculty Senate turn it into a “graduation requirement” instead?
 - Ross was willing to take this from the GEC, if requested, to SEC for discussion.
 - GEC should have preliminary talks with the sciences and other departments before making a recommendation.
 - If we require completion of the FS requirement within the first two years, is there a mechanism in place for those students that must repeat the course to obtain a passing grade? (Note: Passing rate for Calc I at UHM is better than at peer institutions.)
 - Perhaps stronger advising, placement tests, and/or remediation is necessary.
- A master plan for FS is needed.

WRAP-UP: 1. GEO to gather additional FG data (# seats available/filled for each FG course each semester; # of seats filled, by class standing).

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Next meeting: March 11, 2009, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Haw 208.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder