

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Hawai'i Hall 208

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

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

Excused: Ron Cambra, Bonnyjean Manini

1. November 2015 GEC meeting minutes were approved as written.

2. Focus Exemption requests for Kyung Moo

- The **first W Focus Exemption request** was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
- The **second W Focus Exemption request** was denied by a vote of 2-7-0 because the GEC did not feel that the experience met the W Hallmarks.
- The **HAP Focus Exemption request** was denied by a vote of 4-5-0 because the majority of members did not see a clear intersection between Hawai'i and Asia/the Pacific.

3. Foundations requests

- The **FW request for AMST 110** was approved by a vote of 9-0-0, with a strong recommendation that the department create a new course number so that AMST 110 can continue to exist for articulation purposes.
 - The Foundations Board recommended approval after getting feedback from both the ELI Director and the Director of Composition and Rhetoric, and also asking the department to modify the course content so that it focused on writing rather than on American Studies.
 - The ELI Director requested that non-native English speakers/writers be vetted through the ELI first before being eligible to take AMST 110. (This is currently the case with all of the other FW courses.)
 - At least one GEC member was concerned about the instructors' abilities to teach the fundamentals of writing. This was also a concern of the Comp/Rhet Director. American Studies provided writing resources in their proposal revision and said that only full-time faculty members will be assigned to teach the course. This differs significantly from the English Department, which trains and utilizes GAs to teach many of the ENG 100 sections.
 - There will likely be only one section offered each semester.
 - It was pointed out that courses that transfer as equivalent to AMST 110 will now receive FW credit unless all "Introduction to American Studies" transfer courses are reevaluated. This led to the recommendation that American Studies create a new course number specifically for the FW course.
 - The course will not be restricted to freshmen the way ENG 100 is, so it will be a good option for non-freshmen who still need to fulfill their FW requirement.
 - This is the first FW course to be offered by a non-English/English Language Institute (ELI) department.

- The **FGB request for FSHN 141** was approved by a vote of 7-0-1. There was some discussion about whether the course should have an FGB or an FGC designation, because the course has a pre-1500 component. The Foundations Board felt that the course could be designated either way, although the majority of the course is from 1500 to the present (i.e., FGB). The GEC decided to approve the course with its existing FGB designation.
- The **FS request for MATH 112** was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
- The **FS request for MATH 161** was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.
- The **FGB request for TIM 102** was approved by a vote of 8-0-0. The GEC noted that the two syllabi that were submitted were quite different, because the course doesn't have a master syllabus. Although there was some concern about the variation, the GEC followed the Foundations Board's recommendation to approve.

4. **Liaison reports** were tabled until the next meeting.

5. **Announcements**

- The **course-based E Focus request for ITE 406** was unanimously approved by a GEC vote on Laulima/Google Drive.
- **Aurelio Agcaoili's E, O, and W Focus request for HON 301/POLS 386** was given a one-semester conditional approval.
- At the **Advisory Group meeting**, the Board Chairs said they would be amenable to having the Focus Boards review course-based Focus Exemption requests on a trial basis. The GEC voted 8- 0-0 to delegate approving authority to the Focus Boards in cases where the decision is unanimous. When the vote is split, the GEC will be the final arbiter.

6. **Discussion items** will be moved to the January 2016 meeting agenda.

5. **Next meeting:** Spring 2016. GEC members were asked to complete the "when is good" survey so that the Spring 2016 meeting schedule can be set.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by Lisa Fujikawa, Recorder