

Minutes of the General Education Committee

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Hawai'i Hall 208

ATTENDEES: Jim Caron, Ernestine Enomoto, Joe Jarrett, Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, Mike Nassir, Galen Sasaki, Mamoru Sato

Ex officio: Ron Cambra (AVCUE), Ryan Yamaguchi (A&R)

Support staff: Lisa Fujikawa (GEO), Tom Hilgers (GEO), Jo-Anne Nakamoto (GEO Recorder), Todd Sammons (GEO)

Guest: Reed Dasenbrock (VCAA)

Excused: Garrett Inoue (A&R), Comfort Sumida

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chair Ernestine Enomoto.

1. Introductions were made. GEC welcomed new member, Jim Caron (English).
2. Guest Vice Chancellor Reed Dasenbrock addressed the group on several topics:
 - Transition of GEO and MWP Office Directors; Dasenbrock thanked Hilgers for his years of service.
 - Where are we regarding graduation rates? Typical college degree taking nearly 6 years.
 - In the near future, most graduates will probably start their careers at the CCs .
 - Ratio of new (incoming) students to transfer students used to be 2:1. Now it is nearly 1:1 (mostly within system transfers).
 - Courses must be explicit on how they are related to General Education.
 - We need to make sharp distinction between computational fields/majors requiring calculus versus other majors; we must rethink the college experience.
 - What is a “good” course to take? (college algebra vs. calculus) We need alternatives (i.e., freshman course).
 - Symbolic reasoning courses should be only for the student that needs it.
 - We have had complaints from Math and Phil students questioning why they have to take these particular courses.
 - 45% of students have to retake Math 100.
 - Is curricular design or structure an issue?
 - The liberal arts argument should be made in every general education program.
 - Question: What are peer institutions nationwide doing? “Numeracy courses.”
 - Note: we need to raise GE awareness on campus by those who teach GE courses
 - Have instructor attempt to communicate purpose of course, and teach in a way students can survive them.
 - Suggestion: Keep FS and add “FQ” or split it as FQ and FR. Current situation doesn’t need to include quantitative skills in it.
 - WASC requirement: FS needs – Math vs. Logic. Quantitative vs. logic.
 - We also need “P” (“Practical”) training as well.
 - Dasenbrock cautioned that if we were to adjust Hallmarks or remove PHIL as a FS requirement, then do it ~~before~~ after the March WASC visit. *WASC will be pleased to know that GEC is actively pursuing the issue.*
 - Some courses could get both FS angles provided you changed the Hallmarks (if they don’t currently reflect it in the course description).
 - Changes to Hallmarks would take a long time.

- If you rewrite the Hallmarks, you should include a diverse group to work on the project, not just the Foundations Board.
- The Foundations Board is currently working on the FS issue.
- Suggestion: could we have a mini-conference across campus to address this issue?
 - P-12 teachers should be specialized in the areas they teach (i.e., Math, Science).

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Minutes of September 14, 2010 were approved with one correction to Action/Info Item 2c., second bullet, last line: “. . . Faculty Senate approval ~~is not~~ *may also be* required.”
2. GEC has two charges from Faculty Senate:
 - Review of high failure rate of certain courses by Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP), MAC, GEC. Faculty Senate would like recommendations by its December meeting.
 - Proposed GEO/MAC/Office of Faculty Development & Academic Support (OFDAS) consolidation (related to faculty development). GEO and MAC may be asked to form a working group to look into feasibility and make a recommendation by the October Faculty Senate meeting.
Chair Enomoto needs 1-2 GEC representatives (Sammons)

The next meeting of the GEC will be on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Nakamoto, Recorder