

Minutes
Council on General Education
September 24, 2009
3:30 p.m. Algonquin Room, University Union

Present: Diana Allen, Steve Bennett, Amy Brock, David Casagrande. Sean Cordes, Judi Dallinger (ex officio), David Haugen, Doug Huff, Diane Sandage, Jim Schmidt (ex officio), Cynthia Struthers, Tej Kaul, Information Systems and Decision Sciences (Guest), Dr. Douglas Druckenmiller, Information Systems and Decision Sciences (Guest)

I. Approval of minutes from last meeting. Minutes for last 2 meeting approved, these have been posted.

II. Announcements

Patty Mason has informed Annette Hamm of the new policy regarding general education credit for transfer courses. Changes recommended to the appropriate transfer forms have been made.

III. Request for Inclusion in General Education (Multicultural Category) Information Systems, IS 325: Global Social Networks, 3 s.h

Guest: Tej Kaul, Information Systems and Decision Sciences

Course was included as MC course because only the 300 level category allows for this course. Question remains whether the need for general education credit can be met for both majors and non-majors. The course is planned to be for those in the major and several sections will be offered if there is a need to meet demand.

David Haugen raised a question about whether it meets criteria for Gen Ed Multicultural Studies based on the existing guidelines. The course seems to fail to address a number of criteria. Most critical is a lack of addressing Criterion C pertaining to social justice, and human rights issues. Tej Kaul discussed the perspective from which the course addresses these issues. In short students bring their own world view to the course, while the course seeks to explore how to bring the teaching of issues such as social justice into the internet age based on this perspective. The Council felt the course request needs to include information from the General Education guidelines pages 58 and 59, criterion A, B, C, D.

A discussion was held elaborating on ways that examples could be used to address better explaining how the course meets the multicultural criteria. Again the question was raised about the ability to meet enrollment demands. Tej elaborated on the logistics and future of the Decision Sciences program, and acknowledged that there was no way to be sure without moving forward first. There are prerequisites for the course which applies to all 300-400 level course that should regulate the flow of students into the course. The Council had further discussion about the fit of the course for inclusion in Gen Ed. One issue is how it ties business in with typical areas of multiculturalism such as sociological, historical, anthropological perspectives, etc.

IV. Discussion of General Education Credit for Transfer Courses

A. History Elective: History of Diversities, Kaskaskia College Currently articulated as Gen. Ed. Multicultural

We currently do not have a course like this. David Haugen moved to advance the course forward for articulation, and this was approved by the Council body. Steve will email Patty Mason and give approval.

B. Anthropology Elective: General Anthropology, Highland Community College in Kansas
This course is not currently articulated as Gen. Ed. The request came forward because a student wants Multicultural credit for the course to use in the department program. The course can be counted as an elective, but would be more useful if approved as a Gen Ed course. The course was moved forward and approved.

V. General Education Writing Survey (will we conduct another this year?)

The council agreed after the last survey to do the writing survey every 3rd semester, in the last annual report it documents what we recommended to do. We are set to do it again in spring 2010. The report also includes adjustments we planned to make to the survey.

VI. Update on Archiving on the Faculty Senate Web Site

Sean spoke with Dean self who suggested we propose this to the senate to get endorsement from the Senate. Sean will create a proposal for the senate, if we receive endorsement we will work with Annette to see what resources we can garner to digitize materials and with the library to create a digitization process, and process for future work. It was noted that a schema for creating metadata to ensure accurate retrieval will be needed.

VII. Update on General Education Assessment

Message went out from the Provost to all Departments offering Gen Ed courses which included the criteria for reporting at the last meeting. The data for fall is due to Judi by February 18, 2010.

Next Meeting: 3:30 p.m., Thursday, October 8, 2009, Algonquin Room