

ASU General Studies Council

MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2013

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Present: Ariel Anbar, Charlotte Armbruster, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Patrick Bixby, Eva Brumberger, Christine Buzinde, Fred Corey, Scott Danielson, Chouki El Hamel-Chair, Alison Essary, Sherri Feng, Cora Fox, Cory Hansen, Richard Herrera, Julie Holston, Susan Kells, Kate Lehman, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Tim McGuire, Kevin Moore, Michael Mokwa, Helene Ossipov, Janice Pittsley, Julia Sarreal, Brian Skromme

Excused: Lisa McIntyre, Eileen Diaz McConnell

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—August 27, 2013

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

The list of courses due for mandatory review will be sent to committee members for review on October 1st. All feedback should be received by November 1, 2013.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

Dr. El Hamel discussed subcommittee assignments with council members. All committee members were comfortable with assigned subcommittees. Committee members also discussed whether General Studies courses need to truly be general in nature. It was determined that courses can be specific to a certain major and still satisfy the General Studies criteria (e.g. capstone courses). This is often necessary due to the 120 hour limit on major maps.

There was also a discussion regarding how to determine if a course has enough content to meet the criteria present on the checklists. It was determined, that if more than 50% of a course aligns with the required criteria, it is appropriate to approve that course for that designation.

Next, there was a discussion regarding whether we should be telling faculty to revise their proposal or to revise their course. We recommend revising the proposal, but there are times when a course is revised in order to help align with the General Studies criteria.

Dr. E. Hamel requested that each subcommittee review/revise their respective criteria checksheets. If a subcommittee would like to revise their criteria checklists, they should determine appropriate changes, and then present the changes to the GSC as a whole. Changes would then be voted upon, and, if approved, would be effective for the following academic year.

Kate Lehman volunteered to serve as a member of the Historical Awareness subcommittee until spring 2014 (Eileen Diaz McConnell will return spring 2014).

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Eva Brumberger)

Approved for L designation, effective Spring 2014 (new):

From ASU:

SLC 494/SPA 494/FMS 494/THE 494 Latin American Film
UNI 400 Society and the Individual

Approved for L designation, effective Fall 2014 (new):

MGT 340 Creativity and Innovation
*REL 480/SGS 441 Religion and Global Politics
WPC 480 W.P. Carey Capstone Course

From MCCC:

Approved to retain the L designation (mandatory review):

CRE 101 College Critical Reading

Deny:

From ASU (new):

*CON 457 Principles of Leadership for Project Managers

Rationale: Neither of the two pieces of writing in the course involves gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence. One is essentially a personal essay, the other a book report. The course does not meet the criteria for "L" designation.

SPA 319 Business Correspondence and Communication (Revised)

Rationale: The two substantial pieces (the presentation and executive summary assignments) are a good fit for "L" designation, but the other writing assignments are not. Additionally, the presentation and the executive summary are submitted at the very end of the course, so there is no opportunity for feedback from one to the next. The course does not meet all of the criteria for "L" designation.

From MCCC:

Revise and Resubmit (more information needed):

HUM 250 Ideas and Values in the Humanities

Rationale: The course topic seems an excellent fit, but the course structure needs to be revised to better meet the criteria for "L" designation. All of the course objectives involve "describing," which does not suggest that gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence are central to the course. Also, the list of criteria for "L" designation includes in-class essay exams, but not take-home exams, the latter of which constitute 30% of the writing for the course. The reaction papers appear to be personal essays that do not necessarily involve gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence. Finally, the writing rubric is vague and could be applied to many different writing tasks; it needs to be revised to better support student development of critical writing skills.

HUM 251 Ideas and Values in the Humanities (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The course topic seems an excellent fit, but the course structure needs to be revised to better meet the criteria for "L" designation. All of the course objectives involve "describing," which does not suggest that gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence are central to the course. Also, the list of criteria for "L" designation includes in-class essay exams, but not take-home exams, the latter of which constitute 30% of the writing for the course. The reaction papers appear to be personal essays that do not necessarily involve gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence. Finally, the writing rubric is vague and could be applied to many different writing tasks; it needs to be revised to better support student development of critical writing skills.

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Brian Skromme)

None

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Patrick Bixby)

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2014 (new):

From ASU:

*GER 315 Germanic Mythology

IAP 294 Mind, Music, and Culture

*REL 107/SGS 107 Religion and Globalization

TCL 111 Introduction to Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Culture

Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2014 (new):

MGT 340 Creativity and Innovation

Revise and Resubmit (more information needed):

From ASU:

*POS 294 Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics

Rationale: We would like to see more information on the syllabus, before the course can be approved: What do the exams consist of (essays, short answer, multiple choice)? Is there a writing requirement for the course? How do student engage in analysis/interpretation other than (presumably) in the exams? What are the objectives or learning outcomes for the course?

*VTN 321 Advanced Vietnamese and Literature I (Revised)

Rationale: The objective of this course, to study Vietnamese folk literature or oral tradition literature (beyond the development of skill in the language), could satisfy HU designation. But without any identification of the readings in the syllabus, it is difficult to determine whether or not that objective is being met.

Deny

From ASU:

*CON 457 Principles of Leadership for Project Managers

Rationale: Although the application makes the claim that this course provides a humanistic approach to principles of leadership, this does not seem to be the case based on the syllabus submitted. The course seems well designed to develop leadership skills and personal

philosophies of leadership in its students, but it does this primarily through self-evaluation, rather than through a cultural, ethical or historical evaluation of leadership. The students are asked to write informative summaries ("mind maps" and "total leadership models") of books on leadership styles, but these do not constitute analyses of text, as they are personal and not meant to be critical of leadership philosophy. And the book reports certainly do not constitute "analysis of literature."

Moreover, is difficult for me to see how this course fulfills HU objectives to "deepen awareness of the diversity of human heritage and its traditions and histories" or "the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, ethics, history, and aesthetics" or "explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment."

The development of a "Personal Certificate of Ethics" and my "Personal Leadership Philosophy" does speak to HU objective to investigate student's own personal philosophy and understand better their own social experience. But the requested L designation seems a better fit: "Upper-division L courses generally are courses in a particular discipline into which writing and critical thinking have been fully integrated as a means of learning content and, in most cases, demonstrating that it has been learned."

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (SB) (Michael Mokwa)

Approved for SB designation, retroactive effective Fall 2013 (new):

From ASU:

*GCU 171/SOS 171 The Thread of Energy (Revised)

Approved for SB designation, effective Spring 2014 (new):

*HST 360 The Crusades: Religion & Conflict in the Middle Ages

*HST 394 The Ottoman Empire in the Classical Period

PSY 394 Psychology of Women

*PSY 394 Media Madness: Disorders in Film

Approved for SB designation, effective Fall 2014 (new):

From ASU:

TCL 230/ASB 220 The Expressive Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean:
A Transborder Perspective

Revise and Resubmit (more information needed):

From ASU:

*POS 294 Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics

Rationale: The application emphasizes the use of film (humanities/art based) to explain politics. Although some political and historical perspectives are suggested in the application and syllabus, better explanation about the substantive integration of social behavioral theory is needed.

Deny

From ASU:

CON 294/HON 394 Deductive Logic; Leadership/Management Techniques

Rationale: The premise of the course appears to be the study of isolated behavior using a quantitative based tool/methodology with minimal social and behavioral based theory and perspectives integrated into the course.

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ariel Anbar)

From ASU:

None

Approved to retain the SG designation (mandatory review):

From MCCC:

AST 101/102 Survey of Astronomy

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C) (Nilanjana Bhattacharjya)

Approved for C designation, effective Spring 2014 (new):

From ASU:

*POS 294 Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics

Approved for C designation, effective Fall 2014 (new):

TCL 230/ASB 220 The Expressive Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean: A Transborder Perspective

Revise and Resubmit (more information needed):

From ASU:

PSY 394 Psychology of Women

Rationale: While some of the course material has potential for the C designation, the syllabus and course description, and assignments in their present form need to make more consistent connections to the goals of the designation. Those connections are at the moment "evanescent" in one committee member's words.

G) Global Awareness (G) (Richard Herrera)

From ASU:

Approved for G designation, effective Spring 2014 (new):

*GER 315 Germanic Mythology
GER 441 Fairy Tales (Revised)
*JPN 101 First-Year Japanese I
*JPN 102 First-Year Japanese II
*MKT 425 Global Marketing Management
SLC 494/SPA 494/FMS 494/THE 494 Latin American Film

H) Historical Awareness (H) (Julie Sarreal)

Approved for H designation, effective Spring 2014 (new):

From ASU:

*HST 360 The Crusades: Religion & Conflict in the Middle Ages
*HST 394 The Ottoman Empire in the Classical Period
*POS 294 Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics

From MCCC:

Approved to retain H designation (mandatory review):

HUM 250 Ideas and Values in the Humanities
HUM 251 Ideas and Values in the Humanities

Revise and Resubmit (More information needed):
From ASU:

*CEE 181 Technological, Social, and Sustainable Systems

Rationale: Although there are mentions of historical events (the Cold War, the Industrial Revolution), they seem anecdotal in nature. Lecture 5 seems to contain the largest concentration of historical information. History does not appear to be a focal point of the course. In fact, it seems that the course presumes a certain prior knowledge and understanding of the historical events mentioned, since it is not necessary to the curriculum to explore these events in depth. More specifically, the course objectives do not make any direct or indirect reference to history being a major focus of the course and the specific objectives for the students at the end of the course do not include any historical analysis. The instructor did not explain how the course shows human development as a sequence of events (Criteria #2). Criteria #4 was not addressed. This course does not appear to meet the H criteria.

*** Indicates that courses were originally on the August 27th agenda. Due to a conflict with the Academic Assembly, these courses were carried over to the September 24th agenda.**

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.
Submitted by Phyllis Lucie