

ASU General Studies Council

MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2013

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Present: Charlotte Armbruster, Chuck Barbee, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Patrick Bixby, Eva Brumberger, Christine Buzinde, Fred Corey, Alison Essary, Sherri Feng, Lara Ferry, Chouki El Hamel- Chair, Cory Hansen, Richard Herrera, Julie Holston, Susan Kells, Kate Lehman, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Tim McGuire, Lisa McIntyre, Michael Mokwa, Helene Ossipov, Julia Sarreal, Tom Schildgen, Brian Skromme

Excused: Ariel Anbar, Scott Danielson, Cora Fox, Janice Pittsley

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—September 24, 2013

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

University Senate President, Tom Schildgen, addressed the council, and informed members that the GSC will be making important decision regarding general studies course approvals. Dr. Schildgen commented that there will be many new degree programs in the future, and many new courses coming to the GSC for review.

Dr. Schildgen informed the council that President Crow will be appointing a new Provost in early November.

4. Old Business

Dr. Chouki El Hamel asked the council to continue to review general studies criteria checksheets and submit amendments to the GSC for review and approval.

The list of courses due for mandatory review was sent to committee members for review on October 1st. All feedback should be received by November 1, 2013. Mandatory review courses from the community colleges will be sent out to subcommittees shortly.

5. New Business

Dr. Chouki El Hamel informed the council to please review the GSC Bylaws and Policies and Procedures and submit suggestions/amendments prior to Provost approval.

The committee will be going paperless for future meetings. Subcommittee reports will be sent to the committee via email and will also be available via Blackboard. The agenda and minutes will be accessed at future meetings via the [General Studies Council website](#).

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (L) (Eva Brumberger)

From ASU:

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

ASB/SOC/SOS/SSH 370 Production, People and Environments

ASB/SOS 375 Environmental Anthropology

SLC 494 Heroes: Ancient and Modern ~~now~~ SLC/GRK/LAT 444 Heroes, Ancient and Modern

Revise & Resubmit:

ASM 345 Disease and Human Evolution

Rationale: The majority of the writing seems focused on answering direct factual questions from the reading—essentially reading comprehension. We would like more clarification about the ways in which the writing in the course involves gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence.

BMI 482 Capstone I

BMI 483 Capstone II

Rationale: The course looks like an appropriate fit for “L” designation, but there are no details provided on which to base a decision. We would like more information about the specific requirements of the writing assignments, particularly as they pertain to critical inquiry. What will students actually need to do for the writing assignments?

Rationale for both courses.

Deny:

SER 216 Software Enterprise II: Testing & Quality

Rationale: The writing assignments based on reading are primarily summary, not critical inquiry. Although 51% of the course is writing, the nature of the writing overall does not meet the criteria for “L” designation.

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

From ASU:

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

SOS 211 Calculus and Probability for the Life and Social Sciences

Revise and Resubmit for CS designation:

SOS 210/AML 253 Introduction to Mathematical Tools and Modeling for the Life and Social Sciences

Rationale: Not clear at this time that it satisfies the CS criteria. The syllabus provides little detail on the nature and extent of computer usage in the course (the only statement is that “Software packages such as Matlab, Excel, or other analysis software will be used”). More specific information is required about which software tools students are required to use, and the nature/extent of assignments using these. We note that the prerequisite is listed incorrectly on the form (it is SOS 101 or AML 100, which are however MA courses and therefore acceptable). Also, the dynamical modeling involves substantial quantitative analysis, but it is not clear how it is used to support decision making, another goal of CS courses.

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

From ASU:

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

GRK/SLC 142 Ancient Greek Civilization

LAT/SLC 222 Survey of Roman Literature

SLC 494 Heroes: Ancient and Modern **now** SLC/GRK/LAT 444 Heroes, Ancient and Modern

Revise and Resubmit:

VTN 321 Advanced Vietnamese and Literature I (Revised)

Rationale: The objective of this course, to study Vietnamese folk literature or oral tradition literature, could satisfy HU designation. But without any identification of readings (textbook, table of contents, or titles.) it is difficult to say whether the course satisfies requirements 2 and 4d.

From MCCC:

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

HIS 203 African-American History to 1865

HIS 251 The History of England to 1700

HIS 252 The History of England 1700 to Present

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

From ASU:

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

ASB 375/SOS 375 Environmental Anthropology

POS 294 Watching Politics: How Films Explain American Politics (Revised)

PSY 394 Intro to Cultural Psychology

Deny:

PSY 394 – Neuroeconomics

Rationale: Topics in this course marginally address social-behavioral issues. The course appears to focus largely on the individual and on technical perspectives of choice. The amount of social behavioral based theory and perspectives are difficult to ascertain.

PSY 394 Positive Psychologies

Rationale: Topics in this course focus largely on the individual and only marginally on general issues and issues of social interaction. Most topics and assignments are applied and specific to the individuals.

PSY 394 Quirky and Mad Science

Rationale: The fundamental orientation of the course is a scientific perspective of everyday psychological life. The course appears to study behavior using a technical perspective.

From MCCC

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

HIS 203 African-American History to 1865

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Alison Essary)

From ASU:

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

CHM 194 Crime Scene Science

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

From ASU:

Revise and Resubmit (with expanded explanation):

PSY 394 Intro to Cultural Psychology

Rationale: While a course that focuses on “psychological differences between societies and within our society (as a function of ethnicity, region, and social class)” probably does address the requirement, this proposal gives us too little information to make that judgment. This quotation earlier appears as part of the overview on the first page of the syllabus and serves as the only explicit nod towards the requirement. We need a more in-depth explanation of *how and where the requirements are met with respect to cultural diversity in the United States*. The current indications to consult either the overview and/or the syllabus as a whole (which itself only includes brief and vague chapter headings) are inadequate.

From MCCC: (new)

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

MHL 145 American Jazz and Popular Music

MHL 155 Survey of American Music

G) Global Awareness (G) (Richard Herrera)

From ASU:

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

ASB 375/SOS 375 Environmental Anthropology

H) Historical Awareness (H) (Julia Sarreal)

From ASU:

Revise and Resubmit (new)

GRK/SLC 142 Ancient Greek Civilization

Rationale: 1)The applicant needs to separate criteria 1 and 4 in the table.

2) The applicant only mentioned events. The applicant needs to address events and artifacts. All three are specified in criteria 4. 3) The syllabus should refer to history in its six learning objectives.

From MCCCDC: (new)

MHL 153 Rock Music and Culture

Undecided (Table until November 26th GSC meeting). Further discussion is required.

There is concern that the class might lack a historical pedagogical thrust. There is also concern that the course might be the history of a field of study/artistic endeavor. *Note: the subcommittee did not agree regarding this course. One member advocated awarding H designation, one member expressed concern but was willing to award H designation based on the Unit Questions, and another member wanted to review the course in greater detail.*

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie