

ASU General Studies Council
MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2014

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Present: Charlotte Armbruster, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Patrick Bixby, Eva Brumberger, Fred Corey, Scott Danielson, Eileen Diaz McConnell, Alison Essary, Sherri Feng, Lara Ferry, Dallas Grantham, Chouki El Hamel – Chair, Cory Hansen, Joy Hale, Richard Herrera, Julie Holston, Susan Kells, Kate Lehman, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Kevin Mack, Tim McGuire, Lisa McIntyre, David Mohr, Michael Mokwa, Helene Ossipov, Janice Pittsley, Julia Sarreal, Brian Skromme

Excused: Ariel Anbar, Christine Buzinde, Cora Fox

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—January 28, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

None

4. Old Business

Chouki requested that each subcommittee submit a short statement regarding their criteria checklists (either the checklist is fine “as is,” or the checklists require amendments). These statements were submitted via e-mail to Chouki and were discussed at the meeting. An extensive conversation took place, and many of the subcommittees will continue to revise their checklists. These revised checklists will be sent to Chouki prior to the March 25th meeting, and the committee will vote regarding any changes suggested by the subcommittees.

5. New Business

None

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Eva Brumberger)

From ASU:

Approved for L designation effective Spring 2015 (new):

BMI 482 Capstone I (Revised)
BMI 483 Capstone II (Revised)
REL 347 Religions of India (Revised)

Approved to retain L designation (mandatory review):

BCH 467 Analytical Biochemistry Laboratory (Mandatory Review)
NUR 391 Professional Nursing Theory (Mandatory Review)
REL 350 Hinduism (Mandatory Review)
REL 357 Theravada Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia (Mandatory Review)
TCL 410 Race, Medicine, and the Body (Mandatory Review)

Revise and Resubmit or Deny for L designation (mandatory review):

AES 301 Air Force Leadership Studies I (Mandatory Review)—Deny

Rationale: The writing assignments do not involve sufficient critical inquiry—the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence—nor are they substantial writing tasks. A one page paper for each assignment does not meet the spirit of an L designated course. For example, writing a memorandum or a personal letter is not equivalent to writing a critical analysis.

AES 303 Air force Leadership Studies II (Mandatory Review)—Deny

Rationale: The writing assignments do not involve sufficient critical inquiry—the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence—nor are they substantial writing tasks. A one page paper for each assignment does not meet the spirit of an L designated course.

AES 401 National Security Affairs (Mandatory Review)—Deny

Rationale: The literacy and critical inquiry elements are not sufficient for “L” designation. For example, class participation does not warrant “L” designation, nor does an impromptu speech. A background paper simply reports facts, but does not engage the student in critical inquiry.

From MCCC:

None

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

From ASU:

Approved to retain CS designation (mandatory review):

AGB 360 Agribusiness Statistics (mandatory review) (CS)

Revise and Resubmit for CS designation (mandatory review):

CIS 105 Computer Applications and Information Technology (mandatory review)

Rationale: This course is a very broad introduction to computers and applications of IT in business. It is not clear however from information provided that it has significant content in quantitative analysis, modeling, simulation, animation, or statistics, and in particular that there is enough content in spreadsheet analysis, systems analysis and design, and decision support systems, or in modeling or statistics studies. The final exam does not appear to cover these topics in detail, and there is no description of what sort of assignments students are actually required to complete. The use of spreadsheets appears fairly basic and may not really extend to decision analysis or modeling in a substantial way. The emphasis seems to be more on how to construct basic spreadsheet formulas and perform database queries than on applications to real problems.

CIS 236 Honors Introduction to Information Systems (mandatory review)

Rationale: Comments similar to those for CIS 105 above. Course seems more focused on methods to select software packages for business applications than on actually learning to use software for modeling, decision support, etc. Insufficient evidence or details of assignments that require students to use software for purposes that would meet CS criteria.

Tabled for further committee discussion (mandatory review):

ASM 465 Quantification and Analysis for Anthropologists (mandatory review) (CS)

From MCCCCD:

None

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

From ASU:

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2015 (new):

HST/REL/SGS 245 Introduction to South Asia

REL 357 Theravada Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia

Approved to retain HU designation (mandatory review):

ASB 355/SSH 355 Traditional Medicine and Healing (Mandatory Review)
PHI 329 History of Modern Philosophy (Mandatory Review)
PUP 190/SOS 111 Sustainable Cities (Mandatory Review)
REL 350 Hinduism (Mandatory Review)

Denied for HU designation (mandatory review):

RDG 291 Children's Literature (Mandatory Review-Revised)

Rationale: The proposal committee recognizes the proposal as very thorough and thoughtful, and the course content as beneficial to elementary classroom teachers. But it is still not clear how the course examines the children's books in a cultural, philosophical, religious, historical, aesthetic, or literary context. Rather than teaching literary analysis the course appears to be a practical training course for teachers -- therefore, we have voted to deny the proposal.

From MCCCD:

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

SPH 241 Spanish and Latin American Film in Translation (Revised)

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

From ASU:

Approved for SB designation, effective Spring 2015 (new):

JUS 468 Protest, Justice, Law and the Media

Approved to retain SB designation:

GCU 364 Energy in the Global Arena (Mandatory Review)
PAF/URB 410 Building Leadership Skills (Mandatory Review)
PRM 364 Foundations of Therapeutic Recreation (Mandatory Review)

Denied for SB designation (mandatory review):

ASM 275 Forensic Anthropology (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The primary focus in this course is technical (and legal). The course accentuates the use of natural/biological scientific methods and data generated through anthropological methods. It seems to be marginally social science, at best.

From MCCCCD:

None

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

From ASU:

None

From MCCCCD:

None

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

From ASU:

Approved to retain C designation:

ASB 300/SSH 300 Food and Culture (Mandatory Review)

GCU 322 Geography of the U.S. and Canada (Mandatory Review)

GCU 421 Geography of Arizona and SW United States (Mandatory Review)

From MCCCCD:

Approved to retain C designation:

ENH 295 Banned Books and Censorship (Mandatory Review)

G) Global Awareness (G) (Richard Herrera)

From ASU:

Approved for G designation, effective Spring 2015 (new):

HST/ASB/SSH 301 Global History of Health

HST/REL/SGS 245 Introduction to South Asia

Approved to retain G designation(mandatory review):

GCU 364 Energy in the Global Arena (Mandatory Review)

FIN 456 International Financial Management (Mandatory Review)

REL 350 Hinduism (Mandatory Review)

REL 357 Theravada Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia (Mandatory Review)

Revise and Resubmit for G designation(mandatory review):

GCU 425 Geography of the Mexican American Borderland (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The content of the course is both of the U.S. and Mexico. The criterion 2.c calls for more than half of the content to be non-U.S. based. The committee requires more information to determine the degree of content that is global. More information is requested about the nature of the assignments and use of the readings, which, in some cases, suggest a greater emphasis on the U. S. border experience.

Denied for G designation (mandatory review):

ASB/WST/SSH 400 Poverty, Social Justice, and Global Health (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The emphasis is placed on social justice and ethical issues related to health. Relatively few of the lessons within the modules in the course deal with global health and awareness. The course does not meet criterion 2c.

From MCCC:

None

H) Historical Awareness (H) (Julia Sarreal)

From ASU:

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

SLC 294 History of Science, Technology and Society in Indian Subcontinent

Approved for H designation, effective Spring 2015 (new):

HST/REL/SGS 245Introduction to South Asia

Approved to retain H designation (mandatory review):

ARS 202 Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas (Mandatory Review)

ARS 404 Greek Art (Mandatory Review)

ARS 406 Roman Art (Mandatory Review)

Revise and Resubmit for H designation(mandatory review):

APH 313 History of Architecture I (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The instructor did not explain how the course meets the criteria.

Chronological organization is not sufficient. There needs to be more details about how the course meets the criteria. For example, how do assigned readings address criteria 2, “Explains human development as a sequence of events”? No narrative description of how course meets criteria—just referrals to examples in syllabus. General Course Description and Instructional Objectives include useful narrative information, but it’s not clear from the weekly topics and assignments how these objectives are realized in the course.

ASB 337 Pre-Hispanic Civilization of Middle America (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: Please type. Criteria 3 and 4 need to be addressed separately. Needs to be more specific in addressing how each Criterion is met. Lacks table of contents for textbook.

APH 314 History of Architecture II (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: Revise and resubmit: The instructor did not explain how the course meets the criteria. Chronological organization is not sufficient. There needs to be more details about how the course meets the criteria. For example, how do assigned readings address criteria 2, “Explains human development as a sequence of events”? No narrative description of how course meets criteria—just referrals to examples in syllabus. General Course Description and Instructional Objectives include useful narrative information, but it’s not clear from the weekly topics and assignments how these objectives are realized in the course.

ARS 201 Art of Asia (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The instructor does not explain how the course teaches that human development is a sequence of events. (Criteria 2) or how human institutions change over time (Criteria 3). Not well demonstrated that it’s not just the history of a field of study. Course appears to be only in chronological order.

Denied for H designation (mandatory review):

ARS 465 Native Art of North America (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The instructor does not make clear how history is a part of the class. It is not apparent that the course delves deeply into history or the past. Focus seems to be on the present-day and not change over time.

ARS 466 Native American Art of the Southwest (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: The instructor does not make clear how history is a part of the class. It is not apparent that the course delves deeply into history or the past. Focus seems to be on the present-day and not change over time.

HCR 220 Introduction to Nursing and Healthcare Systems (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: History does not appear to be a focus of the course. History of a field of study is not permitted. Amount of time and reading dedicated to the history of each field is insufficient. Textbook does not address history.

Criteria need to be addressed separately.

From MCCC:

None

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie