

ASU General Studies Council
MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2014

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Present: Charlotte Armbruster, Patrick Bixby, Eva Brumberger, Fred Corey, Eileen Diaz McConnell, Alison Essary, Cora Fox, 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, Janice Pittsley, Julia Sarreal, Brian Skromme

Excused: Ariel Anbar, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Scott Danielson, Christine Buzinde, Sherri Feng, Lara Ferry

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—February 25, 2014

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Vice Provost, Fred Corey announced that Dr. Chouki El Hamel will serve as Chair of the GSC for one additional academic year (2014-2015).

Dr. George Justice, Dean of Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences attended the meeting to discuss how humanities fit in a complex world and at ASU as it relates to subject matter and methodologies. Some concerns included: how do the humanities fit in with other disciplines; how do we connect students with ASU assets; how do we get the right students with the right faculty (this includes courses offered).

Dr. Justice is interested in how we at ASU meet students' needs, both academically and professionally. One suggestion that Dr. Justice shared with the council is bringing chairs and directors together to discuss a wide range of creative ways for faculty to take charge of their discipline and to structure conversations with faculty in constructive and creative ways.

Dr. Justice thanked the GSC for allowing him to share his thoughts with the council, and welcomed council comments in a discussion that followed his presentation.

4. Old Business

Revised checklists will be submitted prior to the April 22nd GSC meeting, and the council will vote on any changes suggested by the subcommittees.

5. New Business

Amended GSC Bylaws were approved as submitted (with the addition of a GSC Vice Chair).

A motion to approve was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Eva Brumberger)

From ASU:

Approved for L designation effective retroactive Summer 2014 (new):

ASB 327 Action Anthropology

Approved for L designation effective Spring 2015 (new):

AFS/APA/CDE/SOC 350/JUS 365/TCL 360 Inequality and Diversity in Education

REL 387 Religion and Conflict: Theories and Cases

Approved to retain L designation (mandatory review):

BIO 416/HPS 410 Professional Values in Science (Mandatory Review)

BIO 431 Genes, Development, and Evolution (Mandatory Review)

FMS 200 Film History (Mandatory Review)

GCU 496 Geographic Research Methods (Mandatory Review)

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

From ASU:

None

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

From ASU:

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

REL 387 Religion and Conflict: Theories and Cases

From Pima CC:

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

REL 130 Asian Religions

REL 140 Philosophy of Religion

REL 221 New Testament

From ASU:

Revise and Resubmit for HU designation:

MCO 425 Digital Media Literacy

Rationale: The course fulfills criterion 2 by addressing the interpretation/analysis of written and visual texts. But, as it is currently formulated, it fails to meet any identified requirements under criterion 4. The syllabus, though thorough, does not address the objectives required under 4b and 4c. It may address 4a, concerning the development of human thought, but the proposal does not identify this criterion or highlight the course's relation to it.

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

From ASU:

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

ASB 327 Action Anthropology

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

JUS 424 Ethics and Alternative Tourism

From Pima CC:

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

PSY 216 Psychology of Gender

PSY 218 Health Psychology

PSY 240 Developmental Psychology

PSY 250 Introduction to Social Psychology

PSY 265 Normal Personality

SOC 127 Marriage and the Family

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

From ASU:

Approved for SQ designation, effective Spring 2015 (new):
SCN 250 Physical Science by Inquiry

From Yavapai CC:

Approved for SQ designation, effective Fall 2014 (new):
BIO 156 Human Biology

Approved for SG designation, effective Fall 2014 (new):
BIO 160 Intro to Anatomy & Physiology

From Yavapai CC:

Revise and Resubmit for SQ designation

CHM 121 Environmental Chemistry
Rationale: Please include lecture schedule. Please include lab schedule.

From Yavapai CC:

Revise and Resubmit for SG designation

ENV 105 Environmental Biology
Rationale: Clarify the frequency of lab sessions. Clarify the frequency of lab reports.

From Pima CC:

Revise and Resubmit for SQ designation

BIO 156 Introductory Biology for Applied Health
Rationale: Clarify the frequency of lab sessions. Clarify the frequency of lab reports.
Please clarify further the definition of a "semi-cumulative examination."

GLG 140 Intro to Oceanography
Rationale: Clarify the frequency of lab sessions. Clarify the frequency of lab reports.

From Pima CC:

Revise and Resubmit for SG designation

BIO 105 Environmental Biology

Rationale: Clarify the frequency of lab sessions. Clarify the frequency of lab reports.

BIO 109 Natural History of the Southwest

Rationale: Clarify the frequency of lab sessions. Clarify the frequency of lab reports.

BIO 115 Wildlife of North America

Rationale: Clarify the frequency of lab sessions. Clarify the frequency of lab reports.

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C) (Susan Kells)

From MCCCDC:

Approved to retain C designation

SPH 245 Hispanic Heritage in the Southwest (Mandatory Review)

From ASU:

Revise & Resubmit for C designation:

ASB 327 Disasters (Current title: Action Anthropology)

Rationale: It is not clear the amount of class work dedicated towards discussion on cultural diversity is sufficient for this to be a C course. Additionally, the assignments do not seem to draw on cultural diversity either. The course description fits the C criterion however the supporting materials (i.e., syllabus) do not provide a strong enough case for this to be a C course.

JUS 435 Cinema and Justice

Rationale: The notion of cultural diversity is mentioned but it seems peripheral to the overall objective of the course. The instructor needs to restructure the course description and content to reflect a focus on cultural diversity particularly as relates to issues of race/ethnicity and gender, which are mentioned in the course schedule but not in the description.

From Pima CC:

Revise & Resubmit for C designation:

PSY 216 Psychology of Gender

Rationale: The course description could be re-written to better capture the notion of cultural diversity, albeit in this case as it relates to gender. Additionally, the description does not specify geopolitical locale (i.e., is this about cultural diversity in the U.S.?).

G) Global Awareness (G) (Richard Herrera)

From ASU:

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

REL/SGS 107 Religion and Globalization

REL 387 Religion and Conflict: Theories and Cases

From Pima CC:

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

REL 130 Asian Religions

From ASU:

Denied for G designation

ASB 330 Archaeological Method and Theory

Rationale: The criterion that the course must be a comparative study of the contemporary world outside the U.S. (1a) is not met. It is also not clear that the bulk of the material (e.g., learning modules) is devoted to non-U.S. areas (2c).

H) Historical Awareness (H) (Julia Sarreal)

From ASU:

Revise and resubmit for H designation

ASB 330 Archaeological Method and Theory

Rationale: The applicant needs to separately discuss each of the criteria. The application also needs to include a more detailed discussion of how the specific criteria are discussed.

GCU 359 Cities of the World I (Mandatory Review)

Rationale: While the information in the criteria boxes was very helpful and the tables of contents for the books were good, the syllabus needed to more clearly meet the History criteria. Additionally, the application should show the assigned reading for the course.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie