

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Craig Allen, Rebecca Barry, Volker Benkert, Patrick Bixby, Debra Campbell, David Carlson, Ron Dorn, Barbara Fargotstein, Chouki El Hamel-Chair, Tracey Hayes, Matthias Kawski, Kate Lehman, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Peter de Marneffe, Jeff Ricker, Joe Rody, Mike Tueller

Excused: Alejandra Elenes, Sherry Feng, Joe Foy, Antonio Garcia, Barbara Lafford, Lisa McIntyre, Julia Sarreal

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—April 24, 2012

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Chouki welcomed new and returning GSC members.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

At the August 28th GSC meeting, items were discussed that require follow-up/discussion at the next GSC meeting on September 25th.

- Chouki would like the council to review GSC ByLaws and Policies & Procedures (attached) and provide suggestions on amendments.
- Barbara Fargotstein, chair of Literacy & Critical Inquiry requests that the GSC discuss what constitutes “substantive” writing assignments (for L designation). Barbara respectfully requests feedback.
- At the September 25th GSC meeting, the council will discuss what “generic” questions can be attached to the GSC website to facilitate the resubmission and approval of courses being reviewed a second time (revise & resubmit). Please have suggestions ready.

If you cannot attend the September 25th GSC meeting, please send me your comments via e-mail, so that they can be shared at the meeting.

As always, Chouki requests that each subcommittee continue to review and update criteria checksheets.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein) From ASU

Approved for L designation, effective spring 2013 (new):

ENG 475 Popular Periodical Writing (revised)
GPH 267 Extreme Weather and Climate (revised)

From ASU

Revise & Resubmit (or Deny) for L designation (new):

CPI 485 Informatics Capstone I

Rationale: There is insufficient evidence of two (2) **substantial** writing assignments. In addition, it does not satisfy the italicized portion of criterion #1. Too much of the writing is done in a group which does not allow for evaluation of individual student writing. If evidence of substantial writing cannot be identified, then the course would be denied L designation.

CPI 486 Informatics Capstone II

Rationale: The same concern noted in CPI 485 I applies to this course. There is insufficient evidence that the writing assignments are **substantial**. If this deficiency can be addressed, the course may be resubmitted for consideration. If evidence of substantial writing cannot be identified the course would be denied L designation.

ENG 474 Review Writing (revised)

Rationale: Need **clarification** that there is more than one writing assignment that demonstrates substantial writing.

NLM 430 Managing Nonprofit Organizations (revised)

Rationale: Need to be able to identify in syllabus what assignments are considered substantial. It is possible that if there was writing on the exams the fifty percent of the grade requirement could be met. Need to clarify what is on the exams. Revise and resubmit.

PRM 304 Areas and Facilities Management (revised)

Rationale: More information needed re: how the five identified projects constitute substantial writing assignments. If this additional information is submitted, the proposal could be reassessed for Literacy & Critical Thinking designation. If requested information is not submitted, then the course should be denied such designation.

SCM 479 Supply Chain Strategy

Rationale: Italicized portion of criterion #1 does not appear to be met. Too much work is done in groups. There is insufficient evidence of two substantial writing assignments. As submitted, the course does not meet the criteria for Literacy designation. While the case reports seem substantial, they are group project in which there is no way to tell which individual students did what.

From MCCCCD

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

ENG 111 Technical Writing (mandatory review)

Rationale: It is not clear that the writing assignments are of sufficient length to count as substantial. All of the writing seems to be smaller writing assignments, like writing letters. The syllabus needs to establish substantial writing as part of the orientation to the class.

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Joe Rody)

From ASU

Approved for CS designation, effective spring 2013 (new):

IAP 105 Fundamentals of Visual Art(revised)

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Gregory Castle)

From ASU

Approved for HU designation, effective fall 2013 (new):

MUS 131 Performances: Bach to Bebop

MUS 371 Music in World Cultures

From MCCCCD

Approved for HU designation, effective spring 2013 (new):

HUM 216 The Films and Career of Alfred Hitchcock
HUM 220 History and Film

From ASU

Revise & Resubmit (new):

MUS 254 Blues to Heavy Metal

Rationale: It is not clear from the syllabus how assignments or exams address the comprehension and analysis of the aural texts in question. Please just clarify a bit more. Otherwise, a good course.

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)

From ASU

Approved for SB designation, effective spring 2013 (new):

ASB 372 Environmental Issues in the American West

From MCCCCD

Approved to retain SB designation, (mandatory review):

SWU 258 Victimology and Crisis Management

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)

None

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Alejandra Elenes)

None

G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)

From ASU

Approved for G designation, effective fall 2013 (new):

MUS 371 Music in World Cultures

From MCCC

Approved for G designation, effective spring 2013 (new):

HUM 220 History and Film

Revise & Resubmit

From ASU

SCM 463 Global Supply Chain Management

Rationale: The submitter clearly understands that the “global” designation is one that attaches to courses that increase awareness of the world’s diverse cultures, and a part of the course (weeks 7 & 8) fulfills this aim. However, this is a small portion of the course, and worth less than 10% of the final grade. It is possible that more of the course meets our criteria, but it was impossible to determine this from the syllabus, and we did not receive a table of contents from the textbook, or any information about the other readings for the course beyond their titles listed in the syllabus. If awareness of world cultural diversity is a more significant part of the course, then we encourage the submitter to try again, with more documentation.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffrey Ricker)

From MCCC

Deny for H designation (new):

HUM 220 History and Film

Rationale: The course seems to meet Criterion 1 ("History is a major focus of the course"). There is insufficient evidence, however, that it meets the remaining criteria.

Criterion 2: "The course examines and explains human development as a sequence of events." Students analyze a number of films, each of which explores a topic or event that often seems unrelated to those explored in the films from prior and subsequent weeks.

Criterion 3: "There is a disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time." The course competencies emphasize the evaluation of historical films with respect to the following: accuracy in how events/issues are presented (described and/or explained), cultural impact of the films, and changes in various aspects of historical film-making. This does not constitute "a disciplined systematic examination of human institutions." It seems that the course focuses primarily on the study of historical film as a genre, not on the history of the human institutions that characterize societies, civilizations, cultures, etc.

Criterion 4: "The course examines the relationship among events, ideas, and artifacts and the broad social, political and economic context."

If a course does not meet Criterion 3, it cannot meet Criterion 4. This is because the human institutions referred to in Criterion 3 are fundamental components of the "broad social, political and economic context" of Criterion 4.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie