

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 29, 2016
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Ariel Anbar, Alexandra Aragon, Charlotte Armbruster, Tamiko Azuma, Eva Brumberger, Fred Corey, Alison Essary-Chair, Lara Ferry, Caroline Harrison, Sean Hawkeswood, Richard Herrera, Julie Holston, Wendy Hultsman, Beth Landish, Phyllis Lucie, Fran Matera, Michael Mokwa, Helene Ossipov, Janice Pittsley, Laura Zimmerman

Excused: Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Cora Fox, Cory Hansen, Bertha Manninen, Lisa McIntyre Brian Skromme, Stefan Stantchev

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—March 1, 2016

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements - Fred Corey, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, was invited to address the GSC at the March 29th meeting regarding the proposed new general studies awareness area (CP) the Creative Process.

Dr. Corey stated that the difficulty in implementing this proposed new awareness area relates to major maps and the present 120 semester hour requirement. We cannot, at this point in time, add any additional semester hours. Some units would have to remove a course(s) from their present major maps. ASU presently has over 400 undergraduate degree plans.

Dr. Corey would like to see the Creative Process imbedded within the curricular process, via on-line portfolios. One suggestion is for the GSC to assist with the creation of a template for student portfolios. Upon review of student portfolios, a student can be awarded a badge in a particular general studies area related to their learning experiences. This can bridge how the teaching body measures student success in relation to self-awareness.

Perhaps the GSC can launch a pilot program to see what the hurdles are. It is suggested that an ad hoc committee: Caroline Harrison, Julie Holston, Wendy Hultsman, Helene Ossipov, be formed to look into portfolio review as part of the GSC process.

The council will continue to discuss this concept at the April 19th GSC meeting and beyond.

4. Old Business

none

5. New Business

none

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry

From ASU:

Approved for L designation, effective Spring 2017 (new):

FIS 305 Ways of Knowing

FIS 332 Risk and Future

REL 101 Religion, Culture, and Public Life

Revise and Resubmit for L designation (new):

FIS 331 Technology and the Modern World

Rationale: The short “lecture preps” are reflections; in order to meet L criteria, they need to involve more critical inquiry. Additionally, the two research papers are actually two versions of the same paper, one slightly more developed than the other. While the structure of this project is ideal for L designation, the fact that it is one paper means that the course does not have two substantial writing assignments. The syllabus needs to be revised to make clear how the cumulative feedback results in a major distinction between draft and final—a distinction strong enough that they could be considered two separate writing assignments.

MED 300 Historical and Contemporary Issues in Health (revised)

Rationale: The changes to the reflections suggest that they now involve a basic level critical of critical inquiry. However, there still appears to be only one substantial writing assignment—the final project. If the seven critical reflections each received substantial feedback to improve the writing and quality of the argument, and the reflections were explicitly tied together in some way, they could be considered one substantial assignment.

From MCCCDCD:

none

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

none

From MCCCDCD:

none

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2017 (new):

REL 101 Religion, Culture, and Public Life

From MCCCDCD:

Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2016 (new):

MHL 204 Hip Hop Culture and Music

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences

From ASU:

Approved for SB designation, effective Spring 2017 (new):

FIS 307 Navigating Futures

FIS 308 Politics, Markets and Innovation

FIS 333 Governing Emerging Technologies

TCL/ASB 275 Culture, Language and Learning
HSE 323 Perception and Human Systems

From MCCCDC:

none

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)

From ASU:

Revise and Resubmit for SQ (new)

This course was tabled and will be reviewed at the April 19th GSC meeting

PHY 194 The Science of Musical Instruments

From MCCCDC:

none

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States

From ASU:

Approved for C designation, effective Spring 2017 (new):

FIS 334 Science, Technology and Inequality

Deny for C designation (new):

TCL/ASB 275 Culture, Language and Learning

Rationale: Our committee struggled with this one. On one hand the course focuses on immigrant communities; on the other, it does so solely through their experience of second language acquisition. One of our members suggested the SB designation may be more appropriate because the course tends to focus on social issues and their influence on language acquisition. As a committee, we agreed that the course's focus on studying the acquisition of a skill or competency was primary, and that the cultural aspects appear to be secondary. There is little explicit emphasis in particular on the US.

From MCCC

Approved for C designation, effective Fall 2016 (new):

MHL 204 Hip Hop Music and Culture

G) Global Awareness

From ASU:

Approved for G designation, effective Spring 2017 (new):

ASB 442/SBS 460 Urban Studies

FIS 337 Innovation and Global Development

REL 101 Religion, Culture, and Public Life

Revise and Resubmit for G designation (new):

NEW 300 International Cities

Rationale: This course contains only 1 unit on contemporary global issues (Food Then and Now, Societal Traditions in Modern Rome). The remaining pre sessions cover historical aspects of Rome and Roman society. Though students will travel to Rome and experience modern Rome, more explanation as to comparisons of ancient and modern Rome are need for a full assessment of whether the course satisfies the criterion that the course “contribute to an understanding of the contemporary world.”

From MCCC

Approved to retain the G designation (mandatory review):

HUM 211AA Foreign Films: Classics

H) Historical Awareness

From ASU:

Approved for H designation, effective Spring 2017 (new):

FIS 201 Innovation in Society

Deny for H designation (new):

MED 300 Historical and Contemporary Issues in Health

Rationale: While this revised proposal highlights more clearly the historical information included in the course, the committee still feels that the course falls into the category of “the history of a field of study” without meeting all of the four criteria. History itself does not appear to be a focus of the course; rather, events occurring within the field of medicine are explored as a contextual narrative for modern practices in medicine. There are still no assignments that test historical understanding or demand historical analysis, other than perhaps the final project which may incorporate history anecdotally as a foundation for the future design of medical education. Most of the readings pertain narrowly to historical events within the field of medicine, providing only brief and anecdotal analysis of the “political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions” that gave rise to the profession. The course does not require sufficient historical inquiry or analysis to demonstrate "both how the field of study is affected by political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions AND how political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions are affected by the field of study."

NOTE: It looks like an entirely different syllabus was submitted for this proposal. The required readings, weekly topics, and assignments are almost all different from the previous submission. It is not clear whether this indicates that the curriculum has been substantially revised since last month, or whether this is merely another faculty member's syllabus.

From MCCCD:

none

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie