



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 2016

3:00–5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Alexandra Aragon, Tamiko Azuma, Heather Bateman, Jason Bruner, Deepak Chhabra, Jessica Early, Alison Essary-Chair, Caroline Harrison, Sean Hawkeswood, Hilde Hoogenboom, Julie Holston, Wendy Hultsman, Phyllis Lucie, Michael Mokwa, Darryl Morrell, Deborah Preach, Janice Pittsley, Brad Ryner, Stephen Wirkus, Michelle Zandieh

**Excused:** Katherine Antonucci, Charlotte Armbruster, Bertha Manninen, Helene Ossipov, Kristen Parrish

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes—April 19, 2016**

The minutes were approved as written.

**3. Announcements**

**4. Old Business - none**

**5. New Business**

Alison Essary welcomed new and returning members to the council. Dr. Essary discussed the need for a GSC vice chair. Wendy Hultsman offered to serve as vice chair, and council members unanimously approved this appointment.

Humanities, Arts and Design is in need of a third committee member. Brad Ryner agreed to serve on HU until a permanent faculty member can be appointed.

Historical Awareness was also in need of a third committee member. However, since the GSC meeting, Matt Simonton has been appointed to serve on this subcommittee.

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

### A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry

#### From ASU:

#### Approved for L designation, retroactive Spring 2016 (new):

LSC 388 Research Fundamentals in the Natural Sciences

#### Approved for L designation, Fall 2017 (new):

PSY 432 Embodied Cognition  
SPA/SLC/THE/FMS 475 Latin American Film

#### Revise & Resubmit for L designation:

SPA 431 Latin American Jewish Culture

**Rationale:** SPA 431 meets Criterion 3 and offers “substantial writing assignments that are substantial in depth, quality, and quantity.” However, the substantial writing requirements for the course and the way these assignments are scheduled in the syllabus does not meet Criteria 4. The “substantial writing assignments” are not “arranged so that the students will get timely feedback from the instructor on each assignment in time to help them do better on subsequent assignments.” Please revise to better address Criteria 4.

#### Deny for L designation:

SOS 232 Professional Skills in Sustainability

**Rationale:** The course and its main writing assignments do not seem to sufficiently emphasize “the gathering, interpretation, and evaluation of evidence” with a focus on “analysis of written and spoken evidence” showing “the ability to reason critically and communicate using the medium of language.” These written reflections appear to be summary or brief reaction papers and do not constitute substantial writing. While 50% of the grade is based on some form of writing (Criterion 1), the majority of the assignments do not appear to “involve gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence” nor “reflect critical inquiry, extending beyond opinion and/or reflection” (Criterion 2). The majority of the writing assignments are framed as “reading reflections” in which the student is prompted to consider his or her proficiencies in “effective and compassionate communication,” “collaborative team work,” responsive project management,” “impactful stakeholder engagement,” “caring self-management” and “advanced continuous learning” (“explaining how the skill was acquired, what

purpose it serves, and what to consider when applying the skill in practice”). The Team-Project appears to involve analysis of a sustainability issue pertinent to a project partner but only constitutes 15% of the grade (see p. 6 of the syllabus).

**From MCCC:**

None

**B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)**

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCC:**

None

**C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for HU designation, retroactive Spring 2017 (new):**

MHL 394 Music and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border

**Approved for HU designation, Fall 2017 (new):**

SPA 400 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics  
SPA 475 Latin American Film  
ARB 331 Arab-Islamic Culture and Literature  
ARB 341 Quran Text and Women

**Revise & Resubmit for HU designation (new):**

SPA 400 – Introduction to Spanish Linguistics

***Rationale:*** The proposal needs to provide more specific evidence of HU criteria, in particular how the course involves critical analysis of a philosophical or religious idea, or relating to human thought.

Although there is some critical analysis of language, it is not enough to warrant the HU. If you look at the learning objectives, only the “Language, Languages, and Linguistics” section really stands out as having content that could warrant the HU. But the Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax sections seem to be more about learning the actual language than anything else. The project proposal and presentation

of final project only really talks about a “topic of interest to research” relating to linguistics, but it isn’t clear that this project has to be a critical analysis of a philosophical or religious idea, or relating to human thought. The professor writes that this assignment will enable students to “describe language not based on prejudices or valued judgement of certain dialectics”, but it is not clear what this really means, or how the assignment does that.

**From MCCCDC:**

None

**D) Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for SB designation, Fall 2017 (new):**

TGM 468 States and Markets in the Global Economy

SWU 350 Whole Person Health: Mindful Living Across the Lifespan

SWU 351 Sustainable Living and Mindful Eating

**Deny for SB designation (new):**

TGM 204 Principles of Marketing for Global Organizations

TGM 353 Regional Management Environment

***Rationale for both courses:*** These courses have complete proposals demonstrating socio-behavioral foundations and content throughout the courses. However, both courses are predominately oriented to the development of applied professional skills. As such, these course may meet minimum standards for SB designation, but are not general studies courses.

**From MCCCDC:**

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

IFS 210 Research in Global Society

**E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)**

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCCCD:**

None

**F) Cultural Diversity in the United States**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for C designation, retroactive Spring 2017 (new):**

MHL 394 Music and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border

**Revise and resubmit for C designation (new):**

ARB 341 Quran Text and Woman

*Rationale:* There is no connection with Muslim women and the US. There is almost no mention of the US anywhere in the documentation supplied. The content would be fine if connections were made to Muslim women in the US...either solely or in comparison.

**From MCCCCD:**

None

**G) Global Awareness**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for G designation, Fall 2017 (new):**

SPA/SLC/THE/FMS 475 Latin American Film  
TGM 353 Regional Management Environment  
TGM 468 States and Markets in the Global Economy  
ARB 331 Arabic-Islamic Culture and Literature

**Approved for G designation, retroactive Spring 2017 (new):**

MHL 394 Music and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border

**Revise and resubmit for G designation (new):**

TGM 204 Principles of Marketing for Global Organizations

*Rationale:* The committee would like to see more evidence that there is an exploration of the target/global cultures.

ARB 341 Quran Text and Women

*Rationale:* The committee would like to see more evidence that there is discussion and comparison about women in today's Islamic cultures.

**From MCCCCD:**

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

CRE 201 Critical Reading and Writing in Global Society

## **H) Historical Awareness**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for H designation, Fall 2017 (new):**

ARB 331 Arabic-Islamic Culture and Literature (new)

ARB 341 Quran Text and Women (new)

**From MCCCCD:**

None

## **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie