



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 10, 2019

3:15–5:00 p.m.

Present: Katherine Antonucci, Charlotte Armbruster, Tamiko Azuma, Martha Cocchiarella, Caroline Harrison – Chair, Aaron Hess, Julie Holston, Phyllis Lucie, Mickey Mancenido, Manisha Master, Darryl Morrell, Helene Ossipov, Steve Semken, Megan Gorvin Short, Mark Tebeau, Michelle Zandieh

Excused: Patience Akpan, Brian Goodman, Julia Himberg, Bertha Manninen, Michael Mokwa, Kristen Parrish, Peter Schmidt

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—September 12, 2019

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

4. Old Business

5. New Business

Syllabus template discussion – the HU subcommittee presented a template for possible use to facilitate the review of topics for Humanities Lab, as there is an overwhelming amount of paper work for faculty. This discussion will continue next month.

MCCCD had a discussion item relating to the impact on general studies values from a course equivalency evaluation for HIS 212 History of Religion. The concern was related to pre-requisites to transfer courses, as they impact general studies with a direct equivalency.

After a discussion, the GSC decided course evaluations fell under a different process, and as such, did not make a recommendation.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

Approved for HU designation, effective spring 2020 (new):

HUL/AME/FIS 494 Working Bodies & Technology

HUL/MUS/WST 494 Sound and Well-Being

HUL/ENG/JUS 494 Educating for Inclusion

HUL/HST/SOS 494 Energy and Social Justice

HUL/AME/FSE/SES 394 Life without Earth

POR/SLC 194 Food, Culture, and Society in Brazil

Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2020 (new):

REL 383 Religion and Sports

SLC/LAT/GRK 344 Classics and Comics

From MCCCDC:

no courses

D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB)

From ASU:

Approved for SB designation, effective fall 2019 (new):

CPP112 National Service and American Democracy

Deny for SB designation:

PBH 201 Economics for Health Majors

Rationale: The proposal is marginally developed and documented. The syllabus is presented without much detail or insight. There is not a clear and dominant focus on studying and understanding human interaction with socio-behavioral perspectives and research grounding the material and work. The course appears to focus on institutional and relatively abstract perspectives of economics and health care. There is a strong micro/individual choice orientation as expressed in the proposal and text materials.

From MCCCD:

no courses

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)

From ASU:

Deny for SQ designation (new):

ART 394 Science and Art of Botanical Design

Rationale:

- None of the mandatory criteria in Table III are met by this course.
- Criterion I.C (“Includes coverage of the methods of scientific inquiry that characterize the particular discipline”) is not met since the quizzes and final exam are focused almost completely on identifying and naming plant species. This may be important information for the field, but it does not correspond to “methods of scientific inquiry.”
- Criterion I.D (“Addresses the potential for uncertainty in scientific inquiry”) is not met because most questions posed to students are subjective and self-evaluative in nature (e.g., “Why do we need botanicals in our lives?” “How are botanicals a benefit to us?”) rather than an evaluation of uncertainty within the specific scientific inquiry. An example of this would be, for an experiment testing a hypothesis related to botanicals: “What are the uncertainties related to the findings?” or “What can and cannot be concluded, based on the results?”
- Criterion I.E (“Illustrates the usefulness of mathematics in scientific description and reasoning”) is not met because while students are tasked with making quantitative measurements (e.g., water volumes, temperature, frequency), they are not applying

mathematical analyses to their findings in order to identify and interpret patterns in their data. It is noted that students will be tasked with adjusting plant-care activities based on their observations of plants, but there is no evidence that they will employ mathematical analyses in determining these adjustments.

- Criterion I.F (“Includes weekly laboratory and/or field sessions that provide hands-on exposure to scientific phenomena and methodology in the discipline, and enhance the learning of course material”) is not met because it is not apparent that all of the labs engage students in scientific phenomena and methodology, based on their titles (e.g., Budvase Arrangement, Lei, Wearable Flowers, etc.). These imply artistic or aesthetic work and products rather than scientific phenomena or methodology.

- Further, a standalone 3-credit course not paired with a 1-credit laboratory course does not provide sufficient units for the SQ designation.

The syllabus indicates a strong emphasis on design and therapy that might better suit it for a HU designation rather than SQ.

From MCCCDC:

no courses

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C)

From ASU:

Approved for C designation, effective fall 2019 (new):

CPP 112 National Service and American Democracy

Approved for C designation, effective spring 2020 (new):

CEL 294 Race and the American Story (new/revised)

From MCCCDC

Approved for C designation, effective spring 2020 (new):

ENH 140AA Sports in Literature and Film

G) Global Awareness (G)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

H) Historical Awareness (H)

From ASU:

POR/SLC 194 Food, Culture, and Society in Brazil (new)

Revise and Resubmit for H designation (new):

POR/SLC 194 Food, Culture, and Society in Brazil (new)

Rationale: The committee requests a list of required readings and the inclusion of tables of contents for the texts specified in the syllabus. In addition, more information is needed about how historical information is covered in the weekly topics and how students will engage in systemic historical analysis throughout the course. For example, how are students given the skills to “interpret food, foodways and their documentary equivalent as historical and cultural artifacts”? How will students learn the “basic contours of Brazilian history and human geography”? And how is the commodity report specifically related to history? The syllabus needs to more robustly reflect the description of how the course meets the criteria provided in the summary table.

From MCCC:

no courses

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie