



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Jada Ach, Tamiko Azuma, Sharon Chanley, David Corlett, Denise Bates, Tanaya Dempsey, Melissa Dengler, Annapurna Ganesh, Anne Jones, Caroline Harrison – Chair, Aaron Hess, Natalie Heywood, Beth Landish, Phyllis Lucie, Emily Mertz, Michael Mokwa, Eduardo Pagan, April Randall, Brent Scholar, Steve Semken, Matt Simonton, Megan Todd, Marie Wallace, Michelle Zandieh, Anna Zischkau

Excused: Sarah Florini, Michelle Mancenido, Darryl Morrell, Peter Schmidt

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes— October 28, 2021

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements – Caroline Harrison, GSC-Chair is retiring and this is Caroline’s final meeting. The GSC thanked Caroline for her dedication and leadership, and welcomed Michael Mokwa as the new chair, and Brent Scholar as the new vice-chair of the GSC.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Anne Jones attended the meeting, and discussed the most recent update involving general studies.

Anne presented a broad overview of tentative changes involving structure for the future, involving three pillars of focus; knowledge (32 credits over 7 knowledge areas), skills and competencies, & assessments (transparent assessment procedures).

The target date for new implementation procedures will be the fall of 2024. Anne will share updates with the council as applicable.

4. Old Business - none

5. New Business - none

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry

From ASU:

Approve for L designation, effective fall 2022 (new):

BLE 338 Foundations of Language Acquisition and Development

From MCCCDC:

no courses

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB)

From ASU:

Revise & Resubmi SB designation, (mandatory review):

HST 303 Topic: Studies in Asian History (Modern China -Violence)

The syllabus for this course was developed and presented adequately. The course is relevant and interesting. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient evidence that socio-behavioral perspectives and theoretical frameworks dominate and pervade the course, and especially, the students' course work. The core focus of the course is on historical and institutional perspectives rather than socio-behavioral. There appear to be some topics that are directly addressing socio-behavioral interactions, but these are in a supporting role not a dominant role.

Across the proposal, the claim is made that study and knowledge of human interaction is evident throughout the course, then a variety of topics are simply listed to support this claim, but most of the work implies institutional considerations are dominant. Both, the syllabus and proposal need to

provide more explicit examples of social behavioral interactions as a dominating perspective across the course description, learning outcomes, and especially student work. Right now, the course is heavy on providing a historical overview.

From MCCCDC:

no courses

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

G) Global Awareness (G)

From ASU:

Approved to retain G designation (mandatory review):

HST 303 Topic: Studies in Asian History (Modern China -Violence)

Revise & Resubmit for G designation (new):

SPA/POR/SLC 494 Protest Song in Latin America (new)

Rationale: The connection to a global issue could have been clearer; although this was checked, further explanation is needed on how the course content connects to a global issue. The course clearly examines a culture-specific element of a region, but what is lacking is how that contributes to an understanding of a contemporary world. We welcome further explanation and evidence to support meeting these in a revision and resubmission.

From MCCCDC:

no courses

H) Historical Awareness (H)

From ASU:

Approve to retain H designation (mandatory review):

HST 303 Topic: Studies in Asian History (Modern China -Violence)

Revise and Resubmit for H designation (new):

CEL 300 Capitalism and Great Economic Debates (new)

Rationale: We clearly see that history is a focus of the course, though of what exactly is the question. The course has great authors theorizing about political economy over time, but we are not sure if it demonstrates human institutions changing over time. There is need for additional contextualization that we are not seeing in the materials provided, though the course may well address these. We do not see that the students would have a historically informed view of ancient Greek political economy with readings just from Aristotle's Politics. Perhaps a background lecture achieves this or the inclusion of a reading from some contemporary secondary literature that is more historical than theoretical in its approach. The episodic approach (ancient, early modern, then modern) also leaves significant gaps that telescope the view of the growth of capitalism.

From MCCCCD:

no courses

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie