

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2013
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Volker Benkert, Patrick Bixby, Debra Campbell, Ron Dorn, Alejandra Elenes, Sherry Feng, Chouki El Hamel – Chair, Antonio Garcia, Hilde Hoogenboom, Barbara Lafford, Kate Lehman, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Lisa McIntyre, Mark Montesano, Jeff Ricker, Gary Ries, Julia Sarreal, Mike Tueller

Excused: Craig Allen, Rebecca Barry, David Carlson, Barbara Fargotstein, Peter de Marneffe, Joe Rody

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—November 20, 2012

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Ron Dorn, Chair – Natural Sciences Subcommittee, and Antonio Garcia informed the GSC about requested changes in the Natural Sciences general studies criteria checksheet for the SG designation (removal of lab – 1 semester hour).

Ron informed the GSC about his discussion with Rob Page, Dean CLAS. Dr. Page supports this change, and is in agreement with Ron and Antonio’s recommendations as it relates to the proposed change.

After a lengthy discussion with council members, a **motion** was made to accept Ron’s proposal relating to the change on the SG criteria checksheet.

A motion was made, seconded, and **approved** by **majority** voice vote.

There were **two** abstentions.

4. Old Business

On-going discussion about GSC Policies and Procedures.

5. New Business

Dr. El Hamel discussed with council members the need for tutorial services for faculty and staff relating to course submissions for general studies consideration.

A discussed ensued, with recommendations that a member of each subcommittee will commit to self-help/information sessions approximately four times per semester, in one hour increments. This will serve to maintain “openness” for the GSC.

Once established, date, time and location information for tutorial sessions will be included on the Provost website.

There will be continuing discussion on the implementation of the information sessions for the 2013-2014 academic year.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)

From ASU:

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

ITA 312 Italian Composition
JUS 370 Cultural Diversity and Justice

Revise & Resubmit (More Information Needed):

IEE 485 Systems Design Capstone I

Rationale: More information is needed as to how individual students are graded on writing that would constitute 50% of the grade. Of 700 total points, 400 are from team activities. What does ‘participate’ in the group mean in terms of substantial writing? How does evaluating one’s own role in a group project and peer reviews of others’ work demonstrate substantial writing.

IEE 486 Systems Design Capstone II

Rationale: Concerns about this course are similar to those in IEE 485. Specifically, it is not clear that enough of the course grade is drawn from substantial writing that reflects literacy and critical inquiry. How do grading criteria that look to such activities as attendance and exit survey exam reflect substantial writing.

Deny

MSE 489 & MSE 490 Capstone Design Project I & II

Rationale: Following discussion with the faculty member who was submitting these two courses for Literacy & Critical Inquiry designation, clarification was resubmitted re: the

requirement that students would need to complete both 489 and 490 to receive literacy designation. This was done.

However, a major concern for the subcommittee is that the assignments of “up to 1 page” in length or “half page” **do not** constitute substantial literacy and critical thinking. It might be edifying if an exemplar of a student’s portfolio was submitted to the General Studies Council to support the position that the assignments meet the criteria for Literacy and Critical Inquiry (L) designation.

From MCCCDC:

none

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

none

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Kate Lehman)

From ASU:

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

JUS 370 Cultural Diversity and Justice

Revise and Resubmit

MUS 362 Music and Hip Hop Culture

Rationale: This proposal does not clear satisfy the spirit of the designation. It has the minimum of criteria and it is debatable whether this course is devoted to “developing a skill in the creative or performing arts” (i.e., “listening”), which is *not* acceptable, or if it is truly interested in “emphasizing aesthetic experience” (#4)in the arts. There’s not enough material here to make an assessment. The titles of the readings reflect a narrow approach to the aesthetic/artistic field and do not strike us as bearing strongly the interpretative and analytic aspect of the designation and the “historical development of textual [i.e., musical] traditions” (#2). It may be more substantial than it looks, but we want evidence of that

SPA 431 Prose of a Golden Age

Rationale: The course that this proposal is supposed to represent is probably a solid humanities course. The readings suggest as much. But the syllabus is so thin, that I wonder if we shouldn’t send it back on principle.

From MCCCDC:

none

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)

From ASU:

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

JUS 323 Justice and the Development of the Welfare State
JUS 325 Globalization and Economic Justice
JUS 467 Terrorism, War and Justice

From MCCCDC:

none

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

none

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

From ASU

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

APA 350 Inequality and Diversity in Education
MUS 362 Rap Music and Hip Hop Culture

Revise & Resubmit:

JUS 370 Justice and Social Inquiry

Rationale: We need clarification about the extent of the course offering that focuses on cultural diversity in the US. Although the required readings clearly focus on a US context, only half the course seems to really focus on US minority experiences, while the first half seems to have a more global view of the issues of Justice and Social Inquiry.

From MCCCDC:

none

G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)

From ASU:

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

AFS 372 Islam and Islamic Societies in Africa: A Social and Political History
AFS 373 Islam and World Affairs
ITA 101 Elementary Italian
ITA 102 Elementary Italian

DENY:(new)

ASB 301 Global History of Health

Rationale: While this course certainly made reference to cultures around the world, most of these were to cultures of long ago, and the way they were studied seemed to be more along the lines of a demographic study than a cultural one. We note that the course already has H and SB designators. While neither of these necessarily excludes the possibility that this course is also fit for a “G,” they do somewhat confirm the view that this course is not quite what we’re looking for. In short, we did not see that increasing the students’ awareness of other cultures was a significant goal of the course.

From MCCCD:
none

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffrey Ricker)

From ASU:

DENY:

SPA 435 Cervantes-Don Quijote

Rationale: We think that using Don Quijote to examine the historical themes mentioned in the criteria checklist would make for a fascinating course. The syllabus, readings, and assignments, however, provide minimal evidence that these themes are actively addressed as the main emphasis of the course. Thus, Criterion 1 ("History is a major focus of the course") is not met. In order to be awarded the H designation, the course would need to be revised substantially.

From MCCCD:
none

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie