

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Ira A. Fulton Foundation Center – 2nd floor- room 2490

Present: Rebecca Barry, Debra Campbell, John Chance, Ron Dorn, Barbara Fargotstein, Cecelia Fiery, Chouki El Hamel, Chair, Karen Leong, Matthias Kawski, Barbara Lafford (by phone) Phyllis Lucie, Joe Rody, Julia Sarreal (by phone), Doug Spencer, April Summitt, Mike Tueller, Kathy Wigal

Excused: Craig Allen, Karen Bollermann, Alejandra Elenes, Antonio Garcia, Achim Herrmann, Kristin LaCroix, Peter de Marneffe, Ron Roedel, Jeff Ricker

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—September 28, 2010

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Dr. El Hamel announced that Vice Provost Delia Saenz will replace John Hepburn and resume duties relating to the GSC.

If needed, the manifesto that was circulated to council members will be discussed at the November 23rd GSC meeting.

Information relating the GSC tutorial is under discussion and consideration, and will be updated at the November 23rd GSC meeting.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

None

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)
NONE

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

None

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Doug Spencer)
From ASU

Approved for HU designation, retroactive effective Fall 2010 (new):

MUS 194 Performances: Bach to Bebop

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

HSC 320 Applied Medical/Health Care Ethics

Revise and Resubmit Recommendation:

HON 366 International France

Rationale: The committee respectfully recommends that the petitioner reconsider the submitted criteria checklist, and ensure that they match the material provided in the rationale and in the course syllabus. The petitioner states that the course submission meets criteria #3 and #4d, but these are not addressed in the subsequent rationale. The committee would also like to know if this course has a textbook. If so, the committee would like to see the requested textbook table of contents.

From MCCCD

Approved for HU designation, retroactive effective Spring 2011 (new):

ENH 190 Introduction to US Ethnic Literature

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)
From ASU

Approve for SB designation, effective Winter 2010 (new):

ASM 246 Human Origins

Approve for SB designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

GCU 194 US and Arizona for Aspiring Elementary Educators

Approve for SB designation, effective Fall 2011 (new):

TCL 303 Transborder Theory (revised)

REVISE & RESUBMIT

TCL 304 Transborder Research Methods

Rationale: Although this looks like a pretty solid SB methods course, the committee cannot approve the application as written. On the ASU—[SB] Criteria check-sheet, the first criterion, “Course is designed to advance basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction” is checked “no.” An SB course should meet ALL of the criteria. If not, a rationale for exclusion should be provided. Also, on this same check-sheet, no documentation was identified (though it was in the second, “explain in detail” section). If these minor issues are addressed the committee will be happy to approve this course.

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

From ASU

Approved for SQ designation, effective retroactive Spring 2011 (new):

SCN 294 Physical Science by Inquiry

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Karen Leong)

From ASU

Approved for C designation, effective Fall 2011 (new):

TCL 304 Transborder Research Methods

Approved for C designation, effective Winter 2010 (new):

GCU 194 United States and Arizona for Aspiring Elementary Educators

From MCCCCD (new):

Approved for C designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

ENH 190 Introduction to US Ethnic Literature

Approved to retain the C designation(mandatory review):

PSY 235 The Psychology of Gender

G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)

From ASU

Revise and Resubmit:

SOS 100: Introduction to Sustainability

Rationale: This course clearly had a significant cultural focus, and more than half of its material was non-US, so it met the requirements on a basic level. However, the subcommittee felt that the “G” designation was not sufficiently assured by the learning objectives of the course. While those objectives do currently address global culture, they do so in a somewhat auxiliary manner.

We would prefer that the learning objectives include language such as: “Understand how sustainability issues affect different cultures around the world, and how culture must be taken into account in designing responses to those issues.”

H) Historical Awareness (April Summitt)

From ASU

Approved for H designation, effective Spring 2011 (new):

HON 366 - International France

Deny

ASM 246 – Human Origins

Rationale: The course description states that this "is a lower-division course that is intended to guide you through an exploration of the scientific evidence for the evolution of humans and our fossil relatives and humankind's place in the natural world." In short, the course looks primarily at hominid evolution (and, to a lesser extent, how paleoanthropologists perform research).

Theories about the evolution of hominid behavior are explored through a comparative analysis of primate behavior (e.g., tool use; social behavior) and an examination of archeological evidence involving species of Homo (e.g, neanderthalensis and sapiens). This, however, isn't what is meant by a "disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time" (Criterion 3) or an examination of "the relationship among events ideas,

and artifacts [on the one hand] and the broad social, political and economic context [on the other hand]" (Criterion 4).

The required texts and readings focus on physical anthropology and behavioral ecology. The textbook does contain historically situated discussions of ideas about human evolution and group differences, but these are relatively brief.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie