

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

3:00–5:00 p.m.

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

Present: Craig Allen, Karen Bollermann, Debra Campbell John Chance, Ron Dorn, Barbara Fargotstein, Cecelia Fiery, Joseph Foy, Chouki El Hamel - Chair, Matthias Kawski, Barbara Lafford, Karen Leong, Phyllis Lucie, Jeff Ricker, Joe Rody, Julia Sarreal, Doug Spencer, Mike Tueller, Kathy Wigal

Excused: Alejandra Elenes, Rebecca Barry, Antonio Garcia, Kristin LaCroix, Peter de Marneffe, Ron Roedel, April Summitt

Guest: Jennifer Malerich – Office of the Provost

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—January 25, 2011

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

None

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

Reinstatement of MAT 117 MA designation- effective Fall 2011

Joe Rody, Chair-Mathematical Studies, gave a brief overview regarding the need for the reinstatement of the MA general studies designation for MAT 117, effective Fall 2011.

A motion was made to reinstate the MA general studies designation.

A motion to **approve** was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Rody also discussed proposed amendments to the MA criteria checksheet.

A motion was made to amend the MA criteria checksheet.

A motion to **approve** was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dr. El Hamel discussed the new on-line courses and new schedule (15/7 weeks) with the council.

The GSC will continue discussion relating to flexibility in course options impacting faculty when a final formulation is approved.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) **Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)** **From ASU**

Revise and Resubmit:

BIO 306 Modes of Biological Thought

Rationale: Although this course has a number of writing assignments constituting 60% of the course grade (meets Criterion 1) and seems to advance the goals of literacy and critical inquiry, it is not clear that there are **two substantial** writing tasks (criterion 3). If the description of the writing assignments could better describe the substantial nature of two assignments, this course could be resubmitted and meet the criterion 3 to support L designation.

DCE 405 Rhetorical Moves

Rationale: It is clear that there is one substantial writing assignment, 7-10 page paper, but no other substantial writing assignment was identified in the syllabus. Criterion 3 requires two substantial writing assignments. "Brief 1-2 page summaries of theories" don't contribute to meeting this criterion.

Please expand upon a second substantial writing assignment and resubmit.

Deny

FMS 440 Los Angeles: Movies and Culture

Rationale: Although this course was a resubmission, it is still not clear how 50% of the grade is derived from substantial writing. There needs to be another substantial writing assignment, perhaps included in the final exam, or this class does not meet criterion 3 for literacy and critical thinking designation.

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

Approve for CS, retroactive effective spring 2011 (new):

PAF 301 Applied Statistics

Approve for CS, effective fall 2011 (new):

STS 401 Statistics in Science and Technology Studies

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

Approve for HU, effective fall 2011 (new):

DCE 350 Dance in the Classroom: Learning Through Movement

DCE 405 Rhetorical Moves

GER 394 Germanic Mythology

HEB 194 Biblical Hebrew I: Initiation

SLC 294 Greek and Roman Mythology

SLC 294 Ancient Greek Literature: A Survey

SLC 394 Germanic Mythology

From MCCCDC (new):

Approve for HU, effective fall 2011(new):

REL 206 Religion in America

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (John Chance)
From ASU

Approve for SB designation, retroactive effective spring 2011 (new):

PAF 201 Economics and Public Policy

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

WST 440 Politics of Women's Health

From MCCCDCD – (mandatory review):

IBS 109 Cultural Awareness for International Trade

Revise & Resubmit:

From ASU—new

WST 365 Women and International Health

Rationale: This is a promising course that could potentially meet SB criteria, but the social science theories and perspectives covered in the course must be made clearer. The Course Schedule in the syllabus is not detailed enough to address this question. Also, it is not clear how the Video Exercises and Book Exercises in the syllabus address distinct methods of inquiry in the social and behavioral sciences. In order to qualify for SB status, a course must demonstrate emphasis on either 1) social scientific theories and principles, or 2) the distinct methods of inquiry in the social and behavioral sciences.

Deny:

From ASU (new):

PAF 200 Public Service and Policy in the 21st Century

Rationale: This course does not appear to meet SB criteria. Our guidelines state that courses proposed for the SB designation must demonstrate emphasis on either 1) social scientific theories and principles, or 2) the distinct methods of inquiry in the social and behavioral sciences. Either way, the course must illustrate use of social and behavioral science perspectives and data. None of these criteria are adequately addressed in the materials submitted. The guidelines also state that courses with a predominantly applied orientation for professional skills or training purposes are specifically excluded from the SB area. The syllabus for PAF 200 indicates an applied emphasis on public service and public policy which places the course outside of the SB area.

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)
none

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

Deny (new):

DCE 360 Third Year Creative Practices

Rationale: The course proposal does not specify how the course meets the cultural diversity criteria. There is no evidence that the course focuses on the dances of ethnic, racial, linguistic minority groups within the U.S. or focuses on gender characteristics of dances. Although the cover page states that the community dance projects will require students to learn cultural diversity “since each member contributes a unique perspective and understanding of the world,” this is vague. The reading content is not provided, so it is also not clear if 51% of the readings cover the populations mentioned in the C criteria. The communities described for the community dance project may include “aging and disabled adults, children and adult refugees, children in public schools, and disadvantaged and troubled youth. All of the community partnerships with whom students interact reflect ethnic, gender, and socio-cultural diversity.” This is not sufficient justification as a consistent engagement with cultural diversity as defined in the General Studies parameters is not guaranteed. For example, the course might only work with aging people or troubled youth, which are not included as cultural diversity, and in fact student might equate cultural diversity with pathology. Indeed the description offered remotely resembles the descriptor normally found in C courses.

From MCCC

Deny (new):

REL 206 Religion in America

Rationale: This is a survey course of religion in America with no guaranteed focus on populations mentioned in the C criteria. The texts focus on the European origin of America’s religions and does not provide in-depth look at the religious contributions of various gender, racial, ethnic, and/or linguistic minority groups in the U.S. It is not clear if the instructors provide the historical and cultural context of the different cultures and ethnic groups who practice different religions. The textbooks seem Eurocentric except the end of the textbook with Muslim and Hindus, and there seems to be a lack of readings on Native American and African American experiences.

G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)
From ASU

Approve for G designation, effective fall 2011 (new):

AFH 459: Studies in African American / Caribbean Literature
KOR 313: Third-Year Korean I
KOR 314: Third-Year Korean II

Revise & Resubmit (new): NOTE: additional information received
Subcommittee recommends APPROVAL

SLC/GER 394: Germanic Mythology

Rationale: The problematic issue in this course is whether it “contribute[s] to an understanding of the contemporary world” (our requirement 2a). As currently formulated, it does this; but the submitted syllabus does not include a course description, which leaves us unable to determine if this element is a necessary component of the course. Thus, before approving the course, we would like to see a course description that includes language specifically indicating that a goal of the course is an understanding of myth’s impact on contemporary Germanic culture. It would also be helpful if the syllabus contained specific student learning objectives including this goal.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffry Ricker)
From ASU

DENY (new):

LSC 394 - Environmental Disasters

Rationale: Although the syllabus mentions the history of environmental disasters, the initiator provided no evidence indicating that "History is a major focus of the course" (Criterion 1). In addition, there was no "systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time" (Criterion 3), nor was there an examination of "the relationship among events, ideas, and artifacts and the broad social, political and economic context" (Criterion 4).

REVISE & RESUBMIT (new):

SLC 394 - Greece and Rome at War

Rationale: Based on the material submitted, the course seems to be narrowly focused on battles and not on the broader social, economic, and political contexts in which these battles occurred (Criterion 4). Before making a final decision, however, the H Subcommittee would like to see the initiator address Criterion 4 and also provide better evidence that the course focuses on a "systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time" (Criterion 3).

From MCCC (mandatory review):

Approve to retain **H** designation:

GCU 221 – Arizona Geography

HIS 273 - U.S. Experience in Vietnam 1945-1975

HUM 108 - Contemporary Humanities

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie