

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Debra Campbell, Gregory Castle, Ron Dorn, Alejandra Elenes, Barbara Fargotstein, Sherry Feng, Joe Foy, Chouki El Hamel-Chair, Tracey Hayes, Matthias Kawski, Kate Lehman, Phyllis Lucie, Lisa McIntyre, Sergio Quiros, Jeff Ricker, Joe Rody, Mike Tueller, Kathy Wigal

Excused: Craig Allen, Rebecca Barry, Karen Bollermann, Antonio Garcia, Kristin LaCroix, Barbara Lafford, Karen Leong, Peter de Marneffe, Julia Sarreal, April Summitt

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—August 30, 2011

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Dr. El Hamel suggested that subcommittee members send comments regarding course proposals to their respective chairs on the Friday prior to a scheduled GSC meeting.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

Ron Dorn discussed the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College new major maps for fall 2012 that include several new courses designed for the Teaching Foundation project.

There are several courses that do not have permanent numbers, and there is not enough time to get the new courses through the curricular approval system. Ron respectfully requested that the GSC review these courses, pending final approval of permanent course numbers.

The courses are all lower division, with the largest number from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

To safeguard the integrity and mission of the GSC, Ron Dorn and Phyllis Lucie will hold and follow-up on all approved general studies course proposals, prior to an “official” effective date being implemented.

Subcommittee chairs will review changes/amendments that may occur relating to the course syllabi. Once approved, if amendments are made to the courses and positively re-reviewed by the respective subcommittee, the courses do not need to come back to the GSC.

The GSC unanimously approved Ron’s recommendation.

Kathy Wigal gave a brief overview of community college general studies issues:

In an effort to make sure that current evaluations are available and accurately maintained for all non-Maricopa Arizona Community College AGEC courses, any AGEC courses that do not carry a direct equivalency at ASU will be incorporated into the mandatory review process. Although AZ community colleges can already submit the courses for an evaluation many do not and not all evaluations are current. By determining whether these courses “self evidently” satisfy ASU designations we will reduce the need for exception requests and standards petitions for articulated courses. Note that if the courses are not viewed as self-evidently satisfying the criteria (based on title and description), they will not receive the designation. Consistent with existing procedures for ASU and MCCC CD mandatory review, the community college may submit a proposal with a detailed syllabus and required documents if they wish the designation to be further considered. Note that this does impact the acceptance of a completed AGEC.

6. Subcommittee Reports

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

Deny:

SGS 294 The Dark Side of Globalization

Rationale: Written assignments constitute 80% of course grade, but it is unclear how ten (10) small (1 page response paper) and one (1) large written assignment contribute to substantive writing assignments. Clarification needed on how these writing assignments together might constitute substantive writing.

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

none

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Gregory Castle)
From ASU

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

APH 212 Culture of Place
HST/REL 111 Introduction to Asia
HST/RUS/SLC 494 Slavophiles & Westernizers (revised)

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2012 (new):

SLC/GRK/LAT 494: Heroes – Ancient and Modern

Request to Revise and Resubmit (new):

SLV 304 Language and Identity

Rationale: The application is not complete. No information assigned texts and other course materials. Course description is vague; we cannot tell if the emphasis is on Slavic peoples in America or on their various native regions or both. The one page syllabus offers no information about course work, readings, assignments, etc. In short, there is insufficient evidence for making a determination. We invite the proposer to revise and resubmit.

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

Approved for SB designation effective Spring 2012 (new):

DSC 394 The Body Condition (was a revise and resubmit)

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

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

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

SP4 494 Latino Cultural Perspectives for the Profession

Request to Revise and Resubmit (new):

APH 212 Culture and Place

Rationale: This looks like a fascinating course. The Cultural Diversity Committee believes that this course addresses an important aspect of cultural diversity that often is overlooked—the relationship of social and cultural contexts to the built environment. As the syllabus is presented, however, the Committee has these concerns:

1. The readings do not appear to provide enough depth about the context of diverse cultures for students for the students to take away the content required for a C designation. Based on the readings as listed, there are only 4 classes out of 15 with readings and films that specifically address Chinese American, Latino, or Japanese communities. It is not clearly comparative or in-depth. A couple of weeks more generally address immigrants and anti-immigrant issues, but these may not actually address diverse cultures as stated in the C requirements. The committee would need more information than is on the syllabus as presented to students about what the lectures will cover in addition to the readings for an accurate evaluation—there needs to be more than 50% course content that focuses on Cultural Diversity to receive a C.
2. We recommend that the syllabus be presented to the General Studies Committees in a more integrated way. The full citation of the readings should be provided for each week's lesson, not cited at the end of the syllabus in a separate bibliography, so that the committee will better be able to evaluate how the content develops over the course of the class. This is to the submitting faculty's advantage, to avoid any confusion or misreading.

**G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)
From ASU**

Approve for G designation, effective retroactive Fall 2011 (new):

HST/REL 111 Introduction to Asia

Request to revise and resubmit for G designation (new):

SLV 394 Language and Identity

Rationale: The course probably could meet our criterion 2a—non-U.S. area studies—but the syllabus is not very detailed, and no table of contents or other synopsis of course readings was included in the submission. We would prefer to see a synopsis of the course readings before approving this course.

Deny for G designation (new):

SGS 294 The Dark Side of Globalization (resubmission)

Rationale: A resubmission. In our last report, we characterized this course as dealing with global problems, but not touching upon culture. However, we had no specific readings to examine, and the submitter, in conversations with Mike Tueller, claimed that the readings would make quite clear that culture was the focus throughout the course. We welcomed, then, a resubmission that included links to the readings. After looking at those readings, we have found the following:

- Some of the readings deal with culture; most, however, do not.
- Of the cultural readings, less than half deal with contemporary *global* culture—a minority of a minority.

In fairness, it is quite possible that this course is taught in a way that foregrounds affected world cultures, and one sentence in the course “theme” announced on the syllabus is directly relevant to global culture. But the syllabus gives no information about the lectures or the assignments that could lead us to believe that culture is their focus, and the readings, which we were told would make this clear, have not done so.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffrey Ricker)
From ASU

Approve for H designation, effective retroactive Fall 2011 (new):

HST/REL 111 Introduction to Asia

HST/RUS/SLC 494 Slavophiles & Westernizers (was deferred at the August 30th GSC)

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie