General Education Committee Minutes

February 12, 2015

Present: Jennifer McNamara, Lisa Czirr, Bruce Mattingly, Emily Quinlan, Kevin Sheets, David Smukler, Carol Van Der Karr

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| **Topic** | **Comments** | **Action Item** |
| Minutes from January 29, 2015 |  | David moved to approve. Lisa 2nd. Approved unanimously. |
| Timeline for implementation of new GE proposal | The referendum having passed the GE proposal, our hope and expectation is that the Senate will forward it to President Bitterbaum next Tuesday for final approval.  Whether or not the proposal can be implemented for the Fall 2015 catalog is not clear, because the changes will require much work for catalog and registrar. It would be helpful if it can happen quickly because of existing curricular proposals that depend on it. However, registration for fall will begin in a few weeks, so if the new GEs are put in place for this fall we should recognize that some students will have made choices based on the existing system, and we may need to allow some leeway for those students. | None at this time. |
| Subcommittee to evaluate GE 12 courses | The GE proposal that the referendum passed includes a change to the definition of GE 12. A subcommittee will evaluate courses that currently have GE 12 status, and sort them into three categories, based on the new criteria for GE 12:   1. The course still meets GE 12 criteria 2. The course probably meets GE 12 criteria, but small changes to the course outline or other documentation are necessary to show this more clearly 3. The course does not appear to meet the new criteria   The committee will work with departments who have courses in categories 2 or 3 to obtain appropriate revisions. Alternatively, a department might choose to drop the GE 12 designation from the course.  In situations where the decision about a course is not obvious, the subcommittee will bring the course back to the larger GE committee for review.  As decisions are made, Jenn will inform Chairs of affected departments. | Subcommittee formed. Members are Lisa Czirr, Brice Smith and David Smukler.  Carol will draft a letter about this process to send to Chairs of affected departments. |
| ANT/CRM/SOC 372: Cross-Cultural Study of Global Violence | The question before the committee was whether or not the courses met the requirement for GE 12. We anticipate that the new GE proposal, which will change the definition of GE 12, will pass. | Action was tabled until after approval of the new GE proposal. |
| FRE 425: French Cinema | At our meeting on 12-2-14, it was decided that a note should be sent to the Modern Languages Department requesting clarification for the proposed GE status of FRE 425. We have not yet received a response. | Committee deferred approval until it receives response from the Modern Languages Dept.  Jennifer will send a reminder note to ask for a response. |
| PHY 155: Introductory Astronomy with Laboratory | Course is a revision of existing Intro Astronomy course with the addition of a lab. The lab will utilize the planetarium and (weather permitting) outdoor observations using telescope and the naked eye. | Carol moved to accept. Emily 2nd. Approved unanimously. |

Respectfully Submitted by David Smukler, February 12, 2015