

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2004-2005

Minutes of Meeting: 1/19/05, 3:00 p.m. in JB-404

Members Present: C.E. Tapie Rohm, Jr.—BPA, Stephen Kinzey (Chair)—NS, Allen Butt—SBS, Milton Clark (Admin), Susan Finsen—A&L, Ezekiel Bonillas—ASI (Student Representative)

Absent: Ina Katz—Ed (resigned)

New Representative: Linda Braatz-Brown—Ed.

Guest: David Schalow, Accounting and Finance

Steve told the committee that Ina Katz has requested a replacement for her on the committee; and Steve asked the Education dean if she could do that as soon as possible. During the discussion, the new representative, Linda Braatz-Brown, joined the committee. Steve welcomed her, and introductions were made.

Steve asked for a review of the October 28th minutes for approval.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt, and unanimously passed that the minutes be approved as corrected.

M/S/P It was **moved** (Tapie Rohm) that Item 1(b) be moved to the next meeting's agenda. He explained that someone from Natural Sciences had asked him if that item would be discussed at today's meeting and he told them "no" and then noticed it was on the agenda. He stated his only reason for the request was so he would not be a "liar" because that person would have been here had they known.

Milton said it wouldn't matter because they have already missed the deadline for next year's bulletin, and the Curriculum Committee will be meeting again. Steve said he contacted Natural Sciences to clarify to them what the GE Committee had already done; and since Faculty Senate rejected the committee's approval, he has been asked for a formal, written letter to the Senate of the courses approved for inclusion in the GE package. He said they had already added their recommendations. Tapie said he will be reporting (as the CBPA representative) at the Senate on what the GE Committee did; and Steve said this year, he will not just sign off on the proposals without the committee's approval. It was agreed that Computer Science will be invited to the next meeting.

Allen Butt **seconded** the motion and it **passed** unanimously to move Item 1(b) to the February 2nd meeting agenda.

New Business:

1. GE Curricular Course Proposals

Objective: To determine if the following requests are congruent with the general education Standards for GE Category E2: The Whole Person – Social and Psychological issues.

i. FIN 101. Financial Choices in Life (2 units)

ii. See FSD 91-06 R3 p.21

<http://www-ugs.csusb.edu/committees/gecomm/docs/guidelines.doc>

Milton distributed the objectives for that category. Prior to this meeting, David Schalow had e-mailed the members a copy of the syllabus and information listing some of the schools in the CSU system that have a similar course in their GE Program. The P form was distributed prior to the meeting by Chair, Steve Kinzey.

David then distributed information to support his request that FIN 101 be added to the E2 Category. The packet included: Handout A which was a rationale for the course, with supporting documents that discuss the rationale; Handout B which had two resolutions from ASI requesting Faculty Senate reconsider its decision not to include FIN 101 in the GE course option. The first resolution was dated June 1, 2004 and the second was dated October 20, 2004; Handout C included copies of FSD 91-06.R3 pointing out how the course fits the category, page 2 #12, Attachment Two: Objectives and Criteria for Courses Meeting General Education Requirements and E. Objectives for the Lifelong Understanding Category, with specific areas highlighted to emphasize some of the elements the course covers; Handout D includes the Psychology and Sociology GE E2 course descriptions and copies from the FIN 101 textbook addressing key elements for the E2 category.

Some of the statements made by David included: The handouts should cover the necessary arguments for inclusion of the course in the GE package. The endorsement by ASI seems to be a strong enough reason to pass it. Other schools in the CSU system have similar courses so it is not new to the system. The course is a two-unit course that fits the items highlighted in Handout C, specifically #12's requirement for a course on the human being as an integrated physiological, social, and psychological being; the next page indicates the course meets criteria a, b, and c; and the third page indicates their course meets key issues of the Lifelong Understanding category, items 4 and 5 specifically. All areas required are covered in the textbook; and the way the course is structured are things that are dealt with on a daily basis and also deals with life-time circumstances. This course is not just for business students, but is a benefit to all students and is designed to help them make economic choices for their future; also addresses gender and race issues as well.

He concluded by stating that he feels the presentation shows that the course should be approved in the GE Category E2 package; however, he can provide any other information the committee might need.

Tapie said he is in favor of adding the course to GE, and feels the 21st Century students need to know about their financial well being. He stated that students are coming out of college with high credit-card debt and finances do affect their lives during and after college.

Zeke said after the Senate voted against it, ASI again asked that it be supported, and asked if the GE Committee supports it, would it go back to the Senate. The answer was yes, it would be discussed on the floor of the Senate.

Steve discussed some reasons that just being in debt may not be a good argument in favor of the course, and maybe it should stay as an elective in Business as it is now. He said the reason he asked is because of the way the course was presented; he just wants to make sure. A discussion followed about being financially savvy to have happiness because "you" allow it to be a stressor.

Milton asked that the deliberations be done only by the committee. David stepped out and said he would be in his office if he is needed.

Susan asked if there are certain value items in the course other than just interesting information; and if there are some pre-suppositions about the course, it could be inconsistent with the requirements, then that could be a concern. She stated there are books available for people to learn about information on financial life-styles.

Zeke stated that as a student, he might not even be in college without having financial information and again stated the students are in favor of allowing all students to have access to it, rather than just business or finance students.

Allen said he is not in favor of the proposal; however, it is a good course and should be available to students; but doesn't think it meets the Executive Order as stated.

Milton stated that the course could open up more choices for the student and more variety for the faculty, which is a good thing; and the materials presented could be "tweaked" to fit the category dealing with women. He also said the impact of funding institutions and banks or mortgage companies could be considered as that often is impacted by gender and/or ethnicity.

Zeke said after it failed (narrowly) they (ASI) asked Dr. Schalow to redo the request and the Resolution included a student representative from each college and again this year, same as last year, it was unanimously approved to support the course because it is savvy financial information and will add to the well-being of a person. He said from personal experiences that made him feel that as he got into a mind set it would benefit him to use credit now, especially now that it is so easy to get credit. This course would get students to think before accumulating more debt and get them in the mind set to think through how to use their money. He doesn't understand the turf battles between the colleges and feels the course is for the well-being of the students or they would not have asked for the course.

Milton distributed the "Supplemental Criteria to be used in CSU Campus General Education Review" and pointed out that this is a mandate for considering new courses, and even though students have evolved, some of the GE courses are 25 years old. He said he is really interested in GE courses in the package that are coherent, rich and serve the needs of the students. He feels this is an appropriate course for its richness.

There was another discussion about the Category E criteria and the committee agreed that #4 has the best shot and whether money aspects focus on people's life-styles, does it impact each item, may be stressful—or not, nutrition is or is not impacted, wellness does have an impact—or not on social and psychological issues, but the presentation did not make that clear; and other variants of the category.

Susan said she still feels it is extremely skills focused. The choices covered seem to be pre-supposed as presented. They are still applied choice, and their ethics courses consider both making choices and the outcomes.

Tapie stated that the presentation was trying to emphasize the life-long requirement and gender and ethnic issues of the institutions is an interesting question and it may or could be addressed in the course.

Milton said he has developed many courses and over time and through the evaluative process, the course often changes for the better, so why exclude a course based on the initial presentation. Let's enumerate our concerns to the department and review the course down the road and address it. He gave an example of the USTD 100 course that deals with finances, but it is for undeclared students and had about 400 enrolled this past year. He said some of the skills set discussed actually weaken the presentation because it is not a skills course and if not then it needs to be presented under other options. Milton then called the question; however the committee asked for further discussion.

Linda said she has to leave shortly for her class, but that she is on the Education Curriculum Committee in her college and so is pretty familiar with course proposals. She said in looking at this request and from the students' needs in college, she does feel they need to be a little more savvy to have enough information to make decisions. She said she feels it is appropriate that it be a GE course.

Milton explained that the Executive Order mandates some minimum requirements, and we have a package that is a minimum package and page 3 of the EO says GE is to be 72 units minimum, so they set minimum elements for the GE and each campus can add from things by adding an option; and this request is not adding a new category; however, our campus has done that before.

The question was asked why then don't we add an H category, then the two units additional would be a hard sell, and even though we are playing games they are important games and we still need to know how does it fit.

Milton asked to "Call the Question." He stated that he would vote proxy for Linda as we already know what her vote will be and the committee agreed. The motion presented is to accept the request for FIN 101 as it stands. The **motion passed** 3 votes for and to votes 2 against.

Tapie thanked the committee for all their statements and the discussions. He also said he especially appreciated the perspectives given by Milton.

Allen thanked Steve for giving the copies of the information to the members before the meeting as it helped to have time to read it before hand.

2. Critical Thinking Evaluation Criteria (Susan)

- a. Objective: To determine the status of the criteria that was so emphatically worked upon a few years ago.

Susan said the Critical Thinking Committee approved a petition (or part) based on the information they were provided.

M/S/P It was moved by Tapie Rohm that the committee pass it on to the Faculty Senate. Seconded by Allen Butt, and passed unanimously.

Action item for the Senate... requests that the Senate include these guidelines as an amendment to FSD 91-06.

#3. GWAR (Allen)

- a. Objective: Please determine how the GWAR is monitored on CSU campuses that do not require an equivalent course to our "306" series within their GE package.

Allen said that Milton's committee answered all the questions asked about how it is handled on campuses that don't require 306. They require a course or exam, but the pass rate is less here. He said nine of the campuses offer an exam or a course; ten offer exam only, but can take it two or three times, then if fail, take a course; two require they take the course only and one take the course and the exam. Milton said the updated GWAR information is listed on Table 4, Appendix D, of the system wide report which can be accessed by going to the Chancellor's website and clicking on GWAR Report. Milton also said that we would probably be the committee to review the GWAR if necessary.

Milton stated that the 306 information within the GE packages on each campus varies and is not in the document, so he would like to request it. Our 306 courses are included in this year's GE review cycle, so a letter should be sent to those schools telling them that they will not be reviewed until the information is received.

#4. GE Review Cycle (Milton)

- a. Objective: To list the courses for review this quarter.

Milton distributed the courses scheduled for review in the 2004-05 Academic Year. The committee will need to look closely at the courses because the reviews will need to meet the new criteria.

Other Business:

Tapie distributed a flyer announcing Foreign Films that are being shown during Winter Quarter in the Sycamore Room from 6-8 p.m. Sharon (5708) has a copy of the flyer if you are interested, or you can contact Aurora Wolfgang at 880-6838, aurora@csusb.edu.

Tapie gave a brief update of State meetings they are discussing: EO 595 ... doesn't want to open it up because it goes to community colleges, universities of California and us, but now looking at the criteria. How it will go back to the campuses; the manner it comes; information for the 21st Century and how has it changed and what needs to be included in it; GE is 25 years old the wording is being considered; check your campus.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. in JB-287.