

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
2003-2004

Minutes of Meeting: 1/26/04, 1:30 p.m. in JB-404

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

**Guest:** Mary Chouinard, Associate Director, PAWS Administrator, Records, Registration & Evaluations

Tapie welcomed the members and introduced the ASI President, Ezekiel Bonillas, who will serve as the student representative. He then turned the time over to Steve Kinzey to conduct the meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. DD-214 Credit

Mary Chouinard distributed a handout describing, from each branch of the military (excluding the Air Force), the conversion of basic training to course work. It lists the Course Number, Location, Length, Dates, Learning Outcomes, Instruction and Credit Recommendation for each branch. All are listed as lower-division and fall in Area E: Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development category of the General Education Requirements. All are the equivalent to four semester units, except the Navy which is three; however, when they are converted to quarter units, they all do fulfill the required units for Area E.

Mary said the question has even been raised by the Chancellor's Office whether we should be awarding the credit, but it is up to each campus to make that determination. She said one recommendation was to have the training be allowed for PE credit only.

Mary then distributed Executive Order 595 which outlines the requirements in each of the lower-division categories from Area A through Area E. She said our Category A is the only one that actually follows the Order; Area B has only one section (B3) that requires a lab; Area C can be a mixture of each discipline; and Area D could actually have the requirement met without ever taking history and other areas as well. It is possible that students coming from a community college do not need the courses in B, C, or D and only need an E course, so if they have a DD-214 that is also met.

There was a discussion about the requirements for GE classes at both the lower and upper-division level and transfers in from community colleges and the impact on students when the number of units they can transfer into the CSU is set. Currently students typically come in with more than what the State is considering as a mandate.

Mary said she will find out what the other CSU's have done with Area E and the DD-214 course requirement.

## **New Business:**

### 1. Start Discussion of GE in General

Steve suggested the discussion be continued under new business because they are so closely related. The transfer of units from the community college is being limited to 60 semester units, and Mary said right now the minimum is 56 and the maximum is 76.

How is this going to affect students when they come here and what will they be able to take here are the questions that need to be decided by our campus, so we won't have to follow the State mandates when they are determined and put into place. Tapie said the Chancellor's Office has already said we need to drop or reduce our courses by one course, possibly GE or upper-division.

The committee unanimously decided to table the discussion of the DD-214 issue until additional information can be provided.

It was noted that the writing requirement is currently not counted, but is listed in the GE requirements. Tapie said our campus has the highest number of GE courses in the CSU system. It was also noted that the Executive Order distributed does not include any of the Capstone courses. A suggestion was made to consider dropping the writing class from the GE requirements and making it a "general" requirement for graduation, which could be one way to reduce the courses by one class. The government course in Area D is also a graduation requirement, so maybe could be dropped.

There is a possibility that a new Executive Order may be forthcoming that would make 72 units the minimum requirement; however, Milton said he would check the Title V regulations and bring a GE requirement summary for review at the next meeting. The committee will then be able to see what is State required and what the campus requirements are at one time. Mary said she also has information that she will provide to the chairs for the committee to use in their future discussions.

The committee agreed that Mary attend the meetings whenever her calendar permits.

There was a brief discussion on possible ways to make these changes as painless as possible for every college and department. Some suggestions were:

- Students would not be required to take a Capstone course in their own major.
- Students would pick two out of three Capstone courses to take (and not in their own major).

- The feeling that students have to be restricted to a certain number of courses and units seems that they will suffer. They should be able to take as many courses as they need or want to, especially until they decide what they want as their major. The entire college experience involves failing or receiving low grades and having to test the waters to see what courses interest a student.
- Financial aid requirements of 12 units should be considered as it gets harder for students to take only the courses required to graduate.
- Chairs may have to be more flexible in allowing substitutions.

Tapie said that at the State meetings, the legislators are saying that enrollment numbers need to be set. So, if we allow “x” number to enroll, then that same “x” number will not be able to enroll because of the limit. Also, 5% fewer students will be able to take classes next year as we are being mandated to reduce our enrollment by that amount.

Zeke asked about remedial courses for students. Tapie said students needing remedial courses will not be allowed in because the State wants to only accept students that meet the requirements for admission. There was a discussion about first-time freshmen and the ELM and EPT tests and the effect this might have on them; if they don’t pass, they could be denied admission; as well as students wanting to transfer, if they need remedial courses would have to stay at the community college until they are eligible to enter. Tapie stressed he doesn’t agree with all the State recommendations and that is why we need to set our own rules before they do.

Milton said in the past, the California Skills Test has been an option, but may now come into the picture also; especially if the Chancellor’s Office wants only the already qualified students admitted.

The committee discussed some options of reducing classes and agreed that the writing course is one that should not be deleted. One possibility might be reducing the Capstone courses to one out of three rather than two out of three and at least would still offer options (and would have to be outside their own college).

Mary said the other CSU’s treat the Capstone courses differently on each campus, but generally someone transferring in still needs some Capstone courses, or some courses could be given as a test (credit-by-exam). She concurred that the writing requirement could be listed as a graduation requirement and removed as a general education requirement.

Steve asked that the committee continue these discussions at the next meeting.

There was a brief discussion about the PAWS and ASSIST advising programs. Mary said PAWS is the campus program used and ASSIST is the State’s, developed from the Executive Order she distributed today. Because the faculty are not familiar with the course numbers, i.e., A1..B2..D08, etc. this causes confusion. She said she is glad that

faculty are asking for help, and her office will be happy to train anyone that would like help.

Milton said the first deadline for the GE review was last Friday (January 23) so all information on the courses taught in the fall quarter, 2003 (or the last time it was taught if not in fall) should have been given to the department chair. The chairs are to prepare their summary and turn in the materials to Undergraduate Studies by February 13.

Milton asked if anyone had a chance to look at the Undergraduate Studies website at <http://www-ugs.csusb.edu/committees/gecomm/> with the new GE Committee link. The comments were very positive: Susan said it was great; Allen said it looks good and the consensus was that it is very easy to access and use and will be very helpful to all the colleges as well as the committee. His technician, Randy Rouch, is to be complemented.

Tapie asked if anyone had registered with Sandra Kamusikiri's office to attend the Outcomes Assessment Forum will be held March 4-6 at the Hilton in Long Beach. Susan said she believes she is registered; but Steve said when he called, he was told they do not have any money for the conference. Tapie said we will look into this matter and try to get information on the registration costs, so any committee member wanting to attend can do so.

The committee agreed to move the meetings to 2:00 p.m. so they will not interfere with Zeke's classes.

The next committee meeting will be Monday, February 16, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in JB-404 .

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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