

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2003-2004

Minutes of Meeting: 2/16/04, 2:00 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 asked for a review of the January 26 minutes for approval.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Ina Katz, and unanimously passed that the minutes stand as corrected.

Tapie then turned the time over to Steve Kinzey to conduct the meeting.

Old Business:

1. Report: Area E and the DD-214 with respect to actions on other CSU campuses

Mary provided a handout, “DD-214 Credit Awarded by CSU Campus” outlining the units and type of credit awarded for military services. She said most of them follow the state “Guide to Evaluation of Educational Experiences in Armed Services” or GEEEAS, which is the one we are currently following through Executive Order 595.

She said we get a lot of military and about 100 each quarter request the waiver, and free electives would still be awarded to them even if they are not in GE courses. There was a discussion about the following comments :

There is no problem with the physical aspect of Category E or the social and psychological issues are earned by military service. However, then the moral courses and personal and social adjustment issues were raised because in the military decisions are not always up to the enlistee who is just following orders. However, as Zeke mentioned, from a student’s perspective, if he served in the military, he would feel his experience would satisfy the requirements.

Susan said there is more to a GE course than is clear to students, and she feels this committee needs to make the courses more worthwhile to the students. It is sometimes after having had some life experiences that they are more receptive to learn some of the lessons of moral reasoning by taking courses in GE which will be more specific to the major and is not duplicated in other courses. Ina said it sounds like some may need more of these courses after they come out of the service because of the type of horrific experiences they may have been through.

Steve said he believes they have earned the right to say they have made moral choices and definitely learned live-long action and result patterns from the military.

The handout describing the conversion of basic training to course work was again reviewed. It now seems more appropriate to the E-1 and E-3 categories and may not be fully satisfied by the current method. It was pointed out that the DD-214 is an indication of completing military service and not just basic training or boot camp. The question then is whether or not the military offers a teaching component for life-long learning. As Allen said, is life the teacher or is a teacher the teacher? If life is, then a lot of people could make a case for having had life experiences that are equivalent. What moral issues are people taught in the military versus life and in a classroom?

Susan mentioned that people who have been through these experiences may need *more* teaching in this area than those who have not been through these damaging and stressful experiences. What is the pedagogical equivalent in these cases? Tapie said it appears there is not enough information to determine if there is about 20 hours worth of in-class training, but anything we can do to help the student coming back in should be done, because we have been doing waivers, so do we want to stop?

Steve called a Desert Storm vet and asked what they took in their classes. Syllabi for the E-2 courses could be reviewed.

Other aspects of Category E were discussed and it was decided to table this item until further information can be requested. Steve said he would make arrangements for someone to come and explain the military's viewpoint at the next meeting.

2. Report: Title V regulations and a GE requirement summary

Milton distributed the "General Education-Breadth Requirements—Executive Order No. 595" and a one-page outline of GE Requirements as listed on page 3 of that document along with a report created by the GE Committee that reviewed the requirements when the university reduced the number of courses required for graduation.

There was a brief discussion about testing out of Categories F and G. The campus prefers that students take the Writing class (306) rather than testing out of it. The course requires a "C" grade, but the test is based on a "B" grade. However, it was mentioned that the exam is much more than receiving a grade because it is graded in such a way that the grade is not considered, only the writing and the quality of the paper. The basis is on

The passing rate is about 30% of those who take the exam; however, there are very few undergraduates that take it. Some students don't take it because they hear it is difficult to pass and opt to take the class.

It was noted that the minimum of 72 quarter units to satisfy the GE Requirements on our campus is a local option. System wide, we have the highest number of units at 82 to fulfill the GE requirement. It was asked why our requirement is the highest and was not addressed when the committee met to discuss the reduction in the number of units for graduation.

Milton said the mandate of the committee at that time was not specifically to do with GE requirements, and the reduction was fulfilled by eliminating electives, which did not require a change to the GE requirements. It was noted that the committee offered options to remove the writing requirement, PE activity requirement, or reduce the breadth area unit requirements.

This committee also discussed the option of looking at the Capstone classes and changing the writing requirement exam to a passing grade of "C;" however, because that would not affect the current problem and the discussion of grading the exam, that was dropped.

The question was asked from where is the mandate to reduce GE courses coming? Tapie said people are complaining to their legislators that they have to take more courses once they get here; this means the topic gets looked at and discussed. Also, it is coming because the state wants us to be more in line with the rest of the system.

3. Allowing students to take 2 of 3 capstones (outside of college only), reducing GE load by 4 units. and 4. Remove upper division writing requirement from GE load.

After reviewing the materials provided it was determined that the discussion involved the next agenda items, because it appears this committee would like to consider all the options that have presented as possible solutions.

Different viewpoints were discussed and how each option would or would not affect each college or department, and be a benefit to the students. It appears there is no one college that would be hurt if item #3 (taking 2 of 3 capstones not in the students' college) was implemented, not if the GE Requirement were changed. Allen said he met with the department chairs in SBS and they did not have any objections to this option. Milton said they could change the Lifelong option from 4 to 6 units and state that they could take any 2 out of the 3.

Tapie suggested that each member talk to their chairs and Senators to see if whatever decision is recommended would be acceptable to them so it would go smoothly through Faculty Senate. If there are objections from any college, the committee would rethink the options.

It was determined that each member will discuss with their chairs and Senators the option to change the Capstone courses to choose 2 out 3 outside of the college and change to select 2 out of 3 in Category E of the GE Requirements. The results and decision will be reviewed at the next meeting.

If this recommendation is accepted, the DD-214 issue would then become moot. This decision also answered the third agenda item stated under New Business as:

New Business:

3. Is there a need for an Ad-Hoc Task Force to Review and Revise the G.E. Program

It was determined that the GE Committee could do the review and make their recommendation for any revisions.

Ina reminded the committee that the credential guidelines were mandatory, and not flexible; and they did not care how it got done, just do it.

Susan stated that she would like the committee to consider the idea of offering a course or workshop for faculty teaching the writing class. It will be considered in another meeting; however the question was asked if we have available those with that kind of expertise willing to teach the class. It was also stated that the Critical Thinking Committee meets to agree on the criteria for a course to fit as a critical thinking course, which is different from the suggestion she is making now.

Susan said she will either put a recommendation together or take it to the Critical Thinking Committee to see what they think and report back.

Tapie gave a quick update on his state-wide committee meetings and said they are really pushing the limit of transfer student units, even to the point of telling them they must declare their major before they leave the community college.

Another new twist is that there is a chance the university will be penalized, rather than the student, if students take more than the maximum units required for graduation. He restated that as our options are considered, it is important to maintain the quality of education. Because Title V requires 180 units for graduation, as they come in with 70 from a community college, they could have some “wobble” room if we do reduce the GE requirement.

1. GE Course Review Assignments

Milton said the chairs summaries and materials are coming in to his office. March 1 is the deadline for the report from Arts and Letters, so Milton will provide the committee a listing of each section being reviewed and assignments can be made at the next meeting.

2. AAC&U Conference on March 4-6, 2004

Tapie asked if everyone was able to register with Sandra Kamusikiri’s office to attend the Outcomes Assessment Forum March 4-6 at the Hilton in Long Beach. Sharon said she received confirmation from her office that Susan’s travel expenses are covered; and Steve and Allen’s registration fees are covered as they were only going for one day (so no other travel expenses would be covered). Tapie said he will be there on March 4, unless a

Budget Meeting is called in Sacramento. Susan said she will be there all three days, and Allen and Steve said they will attend March 5.

The next committee meeting will be Monday, March 8, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in JB-404 .

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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