

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2003-2004

Minutes of Meeting: 3/8/04, 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

Absent: Ezekiel Bonillas—ASI (Student Representative)

Steve welcomed the members and said Mary Chouinard and Lt. Col. Gene Doremus were unable to make today's meeting.

He asked for a review of the February 16 minutes for approval.

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

Old Business:

1. Report: Category E2 and the DD-214 training associated with all military personnel

Steve said Lt. Col. Gene Doremus, Professor of Aerospace Studies in the campus Air Force ROTC unit was unable to attend the meeting today. However, both Gene and the Army ROTC professor said that students who earned a DD-214 would have been given the morals and ethics in training (second only to Physical Training). They told him the courses range from what is and what is not lawful and the soldiers have to make decisions other than in the battlefield. But... they also said it is standard practice that military personnel in each department within each branch determine the equivalency. The academic training that military personnel receive prior to earning a DD-214 can and should be articulated before coming here.

A discussion followed about articulation agreements with the Armed Forces. Steve said he would check with Bob Sperry. Because Mary Chouinard is not here, the information that says the military saying how they want us to count it should not be their decision but is ours. Or branches that do take courses all the time and the Armed Services knows when they get a DD-214 that they do get 20 hours of E2 credit according to the two people Steve sounded out.

It sounds like they do get the classroom contact. There was a short discussion about seeing what the courses contents are but given what has been said, it seems reasonable; however, the committee wants to make sure it is clear with Mary.

The item will be tabled until the next meeting so Mary can determine if her original question has been satisfactorily answered.

2. Discussions:

- a. Allowing students to take 2 of 3 capstones
- b. Allowing students to choose 2 of 3 areas under GE Category E
- c. Removing upper division writing requirement from the GE Requirement

At the last meeting (February 16) the committee had decided that each member would discuss with their colleges the option to change the Capstone courses to choose 2 out of 3 outside of the college and change to select 2 out of 3 in Category E of the GE Requirements.

Each committee member discussed these items with their deans, chairs and other pertinent members of their colleges to determine the tone of acceptance if any or all of these are implemented. It appeared there was a consensus that:

The 306 writing class does not meet the requirements of a Capstone course. If you don't take a capstone you don't meet the requirement. If you compare the minimum of our package we're still only 6 units over the other CSUs by keeping it the same way it is.

The question was asked if some of the budget problems go away because of the recent election, would it be possible that we do not need to worry about a reduction in our units. Tapie said we still have the most units requirement and are therefore being targeted to make a change.

Susan said there is no support in Arts and Letters to reduce the GE package requirement in Category E; however, she said her college would support removing 306 from the GE package, as long as we still required the test and those who don't pass the test would take the class (but the class would not be part of the GE package), but no one wants to reduce the Capstones. Allen said SBS said the same thing.

A discussion followed about the 0-4 units listed in the GE Requirement section and if someone takes 78 or 82 units is it still met. And, if 306 is removed the maximum would be 78 and not 78-82. The question then is why keep it in the package (it has some protection by putting the university in charge under the GE Committee; but if 306 is removed as a GE requirement, the university loses control to the colleges, who may say they don't need it or may change it in a negative way. The pros and cons were discussed.

Tapie said if everyone is required to take a test, the option would still provide taking the course if the test is not passed. He said he feels the students taking the test are punished because the test is set up for failure, especially because they may or may not be graded at the "B" rather than the "C" level. Currently the GE requirement is to pass the course with a "C" or better, but we know the exam is graded at the "B" level, so it seems the students are being penalized before even taking the test. The question was asked who would be in charge of grading the test if everyone has to take it and what the tests would be like. Other options and what would happen if removed from GE were again discussed.

Milton said he disagrees and believes this is not punitive. He stated that the Upper Division Writing Requirement (UDWR) Committee made a report of the test and he could bring a summary of their report on the system-wide results. He stated that Executive Order 665 requirement is that writing be reviewed by each campus, and he would be happy to bring the last report for discussion by the committee; or he will provide the URL to the Executive Order for the committee to review.

Steve asked could a test be graded the way it was done the old way-- should there be one test for all students, or is there? Each side of the argument was discussed further:

The 306 course is seen as remedial work by faculty because students are not prepared for writing and the structure has broken down and maybe the GE committee does need to police it so this does not happen again.

Susan said in Arts and Letters, none of the 306 courses are considered remedial; however because she doesn't know what the feeling is across campus, she cannot speak for all the 306 classes. In English, and any Arts and Letters department, it would not be thought of in that way; but it depends on how the other colleges are teaching the class.

If it is removed, then it would be up to Faculty Senate to determine who would police it; and they might choose to give it to the GE Committee.

Steve asked if the state would be satisfied if we remove 306 which could be considered a reduction of 4 units in GE, changing our maximum from 82 to 78 units.

The committee decided they would like more information to know what the other campuses are doing and why some campuses have the writing requirement in the GE requirement and others have it out of it; and then, what are they doing with it. Milton did say that some campuses give the test only, some the course only and some do a combination of the test and the course. He said he would provide the opinions of the writing committee and what has happened to the course and tests in the past and report back.

A brief discussion of the 198 unit limit determined that that particular number was selected because it is an average of what students take to graduate. Tapie stated again that state-wide, something is coming down. He will be in Long Beach every day this week in state committee meetings and whatever is decided on the definition of excess units, there will be a penalty involved that will affect the university rather than the students.

The committee agreed that they know people are complaining to their legislators and the state wants us to be more in line with the rest of the system. Susan asked if the committee could agree that we don't want to give up quality and we all want to keep a serious writing requirement, and would like to have it both ways (reducing units but not reducing quality).

Susan suggested reducing the E Categories could be done (and even though it is only 2 units, it could help with the mandate of reducing the GE requirement). Steve said Natural Sciences do

not want students to have the option but want them to be required to take a course and that they stressed that the original reason E2 was even added was to agree on parity issues.)

Allen said he met again with the department chairs in SBS. They have now completely changed their minds from the last time he had talked to them and had reported to the committee that they did not have any objections with the committee's earlier suggestion. Now some are unhappy and have said the 2 out of 3 capstone option would not fly; so if a mandate comes to reduce GE hours, where would it come from—maybe not to even worry about it until that happens.

The committee said they do appreciate the heat Tapie is taking at the state level, and they would like to have answers for him to take to the meetings. They also know it is important to understand what the state wants so we know before the mandates are issued and can make decisions before we are forced to do something with no options. However, the colleges are saying that there are so many issues and questions coming up in every area right now, maybe the committee should deal with its own issues now and see what happens when Tapie can report back after this round of meetings.

New Business:

Assignment of Courses/Sections to be Reviewed

Milton distributed the listing of each course and section being reviewed and explained the GE Committee's process. Each member picks up the materials from his office in UH-368 and develops a brief summary for each course (following the previous review as a guideline). The website also has an explanation of the process the committee is to follow during the course reviews.

The assignments were made as follows (please refer to Milton's list for each section of each course to be reviewed as only the course # is listed here):

- #1: Milton Clark – Hum 180, Mus 180, TA 160, 260, Eng 110, 111, 160, 170.
- #2: Ina Katz – Art 200, TA 212, Arab 102, 150, Ger 102, 150, 212, 214, 216, 290, Japn 102
- #3: Tapie Rohm – Flan 102, 150, Fren 102, 150, 200, 201, 202, 290
- #4: Allen Butt – Mand 102, 150, Span 102, 150, 155, 212, 213, 214, 290
- #5: Steve Kinzey – Phil 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, Geog 100, SSci 165, 345
- #6: Susan Finsen – Hum 319, 325, 330, 335, 340, 344, 350, 370, 375, 380, 385, WStd 100

Milton said check with his office for those courses or sections missing materials as he will continue to request them. It was noted that Arab 214 and 290 are new courses and were not offered in Fall 2003, so there is no need for review.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. in JB-404.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

sc/minutes March 8 2004 Approved.doc