

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2002-2003

Minutes of Meeting: 4/16/03, 12:15 p.m. in JB-404

Members Present: C. E. Tapie Rohm Jr.-BPA (Chair), Milton Clark (Admin), Young Suk Hwang-ED, Stephen Kinzey-NS

Excused Absence: Carol Haviland-A&L, Geri Stahley-SBS

Guests: Otto Chang, Chair, Accounting and Finance; Art Concepcion, Chair, Computer Sciences; Walt Stewart, Chair, IDS; Bob Wilson, Professor, IDS.

Old Business:

1. Assignment of Courses to be reviewed in Social and Behavioral Sciences

The updated listing of the courses to be reviewed and those received as of 4/16/03 were distributed by Milton Clark.

Tapie reminded the GE Committee that they should have the Committee's review and final report to the Faculty Senate by the middle to the end of May.

2. GE of INFO 102 & 103

Tapie informed the committee that their decision on this request needs to be made before April 22 as that is when the Curriculum Committee will make its agenda. He said the two concerns were that the chairs of the affected departments needed to have a consultation about the request and that generally the question of FTEs for GE courses needs to be discussed agreeably.

Walt said he wanted to know why the questions were being raised and gave a brief history of why they want to split the INFO 101 course into INFO 102 and 103. He stated that the students are saying that they have already had the courses and some of the parts are in the class and some are not, i.e., textbook may be in one and hands on in the other, but they are not getting both in one course.

Walt also said that 101 is required by all Info majors. The split would make 102 the book portion of 101 (a large lecture class) and most of the same books, syllabi and instructors are used. He said that 101 is part of their AACSB accreditation requirements. This means the students end up taking INFO 101 for their major and CSCI 121 for their GE requirement – which means the students are taking a duplicate course.

Art said he met with his department last week, and their concern is that INFO 101 is geared towards business and the content of the GE B4 requirement is to have a Natural Science component to include sciences as they pertain to everyday living. He said that IDS may say there is similarity but their department does not agree. He also stated that

CSCI 121 can be given as a challenge-by-exam and students can test out of it. He was asked if many take the exam and pass; he said there are a few who do take it and generally do pass it.

Art said their department does agree that INFO 103 is similar to the CSCI 124 course, but the paperwork says CSCI 123. He stated that Computer Sciences tried to get a CSCI 123 course through GE and was denied. He said 124 is not the same because it does not just deal with Excel, but also introduces the internet and other segments that do not appear to be addressed in the Info courses.

Bob Wilson said the course did start out as just an Excel course, but has evolved with the times to include internet, wireless, Power Point and other components that could be considered “science.”

Walt added that many courses are cross-listed across the campus curriculum so students who cannot get in a course in their major might be able to get in one in another discipline and the department (of major) knows the course will be similar enough in content to cover the necessary materials. He also said that essentially a hard-drive is a hard-drive and is the same whether taught in computer sciences or information sciences.

There was a brief discussion about the Natural Sciences objectives in the B4 GE courses. Milton Clark said that Info courses were acceptable in previous reviews for Natural Sciences objectives being met that dealt with applying science to everyday life.

Art said that his department feels that running a business is not the same thing as working in computer sciences areas and they do not indicate the five objectives of a B4 GE course in Natural Sciences is being met. Bob Wilson stated that the course does cover both profit and not-for-profit segments and meets all areas of society.

The course outlines for each of the courses were reviewed and Steve said he feels INFO 102 and 103 are meeting everything Art is addressing. Milton Clark said by just looking at the course outline, he would not know it was a Natural Science course. He asked if each chair could provide the committee with more information such as the syllabus, mid-terms, finals, assignments and any other pertinent information from last quarter. He will then review them to see if they meet the requirements.

Art asked why the challenge won't work for Info classes and Walt said it is just an additional step required for an identical course. He also indicated that he currently has 38 students ready to take the CSci course and why should all of them have to go take the challenge exam?

Tapie asked the chairs to give him the materials, which will then be reviewed by Milton and if there are any problems the committee will be notified so a decision can be made before the 22nd. IDS will adjust their paperwork to reflect CSCI 124 instead of 123.

Steve said he still feels they should be approved; Young-Suk said she would like to know who had the class first. Since it was computer sciences and IDS just copied it, then maybe it should not be approved. She said she feels the history is important. There was a brief discussion that because it was an accreditation requirement, it was not just copied but was created to meet those requirements as well.

After the guests left, the committee unanimously agreed that once the additional paperwork is reviewed, the request for INFO 102 and 103 will be approved as long as they meet the criteria as determined by the prior Natural Science reviews and that if needed, an everyday life-science component will be added in the request.

Milton Clark distributed a report he created for the WASC review that gives a review of the General Education requests made over the last five years that basically have not been acted upon.

Tapie asked Milton if he could make a recommendation to Faculty Senate that the Executive Committee include the chair of the General Education Committee. It was determined that because the chairs of the Education Policy, Curriculum Committee and Faculty Affairs are all on (along with representatives from each college), but there is no representative for the GE Committee, he will draft that request.

The committee briefly reviewed the report and pointed out some of the interesting decisions made to the Faculty Senate that were never acted upon; however they agreed they still need to be addressed.

Some of these include core courses, courses involved as mandated by Title V and Executive Order 595 which have specific requirements for Basic Skills for one and also Lifelong Understanding, Upper-Division Writing, and Multicultural/Gender Studies, along with class sizes, capstone courses, decertification of courses that did not happen, reduction of the minimum number of units needed for graduation and various other items. Learning objectives now need to be addressed, and students need to be made aware of why GE courses are important and probably this information should be included in each syllabus.

In his report, Milton added a section of “Next Steps” which the committee will draw upon to develop ways to make sure their recommendations actually become instituted and a way to make sure as a committee, they follow-up on the process and include faculty input on the larger issues.

Milton said the actual report will be trimmed down to about three pages before it goes to the WASC committee, but the GE committee will look at the entire report.

New Business:

1. GE Program E.2 Life Long Learning Category Fin 101

The request for a new Fin 101 course was distributed. The request to add Fin 101 as an option had the consultation signatures from the other departments.

The P-form was distributed for review and Otto Chang, chair of Accounting and Finance was present for discussion. He stated that in addition to social, moral and physical health, people should also consider their financial well-being as a lifelong necessity. He mentioned he feels this course will help students become more successful as they get ready to graduate as well as throughout their entire lives. He noted that consultation had been received from the other departments and signatures obtained.

The committee unanimously agreed to approve the addition of Fin 101 to the GE Program E.2 Life Long Learning Category.

The next committee meeting will be announced as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.