

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
2004-2005

Minutes of Meeting: 5/25/05, 3:00 p.m. in JB-457

**Members Present:** Stephen Kinzey (Chair)—NS, Susan Finsen—A&L, C.E. Tapie Rohm, Jr. – BPA, Allen Butt—SBS

**Absent:** Milton Clark (Admin), Linda Braatz-Brown—ED, Ezekiel Bonillas—ASI (Student Representative)

Steve welcomed the committee and copies of the last minutes of April 28th were distributed for review at a later time. Please submit suggestions or corrections to either Steve or Sharon.

**End of year items:**

Steve and Milton met earlier and discussed the review process and files. Milton was not able to come to today's meeting; but a draft was distributed of the memo he thinks should be sent to the deans, department chairs and selected others who would have been affected by this year's GE review process.

Before the discussion began, Steve asked if Allen and Susan were reelected to the committee by their Colleges; and they were, so the committee will remain the same for next year.

**M/S/P** It was moved by Tapie Rohm and seconded by Susan Finsen to nominate Steve Kinzey as Chair of the GE Committee for 2005-06. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve reviewed the draft submitted by Milton and stated that when they met, the question was raised about what would happen if the committee used this year as the "collection" of materials for review and the second year (next year) as the review and writing of the committee's final review. They felt it would make a better document, especially as it would be unhurried; and the chairs would have more time to make sure they have a chance to submit their reports as well.

As outlined in the draft of the memo the course of action would be two fold. First, would be to determine what the GE Committee needs the Faculty Senate to consider and approve or reject. In addition to asking the Senate to adopt the criteria for the Upper-division writing course and the critical thinking course, we will also ask them to consider what course of action the Committee should take when a department fails to submit all the materials requested.

Currently, there is no penalty for those who do not submit the materials requested. Some have failed to do so the first year and even the second year when requested, and this needs to be addressed. The choice to decertify a course when materials are not submitted has never been used, so it has been generally understood that nothing will happen.

Even though the committee members are on two-year terms, it shouldn't matter if a new member comes in during the collection year or the writing year.

The committee agreed the drafted memo should go forward as outlined.

Tapie said that as we look at GE, the state-wide senate is also looking at changing GE from 48 to 45 units. This also affects transfer courses. We can still continue to do what we want, and if they do come up with a determination for change, we can adjust accordingly.

He stated there were some suggestions thrown out including doing away with Category E because they feel it does nothing for us at the CSU because 68% of the courses are taught at the community college. He stated that they are, however, more interested in upper division courses rather than Category E. They are looking at: 1) what is our GE requirement and 2) what are our requirements for graduation.

A discussion followed: Monterey actually has hidden graduation requirements that keep a student on campus one year longer. The students take the required number of units and then find out they still need to take certain tests required for graduation. The question was asked why the State and Board of Trustees are asking for these items to be reviewed. They are interested because the Legislators are interested, and the Legislators are because students go to them with complaints saying they were almost ready to graduate from one CSU, but when they come here (or go to another one), they have more classes to take to graduate. For instance, the University of Redlands has 0% of their graduates taking more than the requirements for graduation. This is because of the cost to go to the private institutions.

Since the Legislator's salaries are paid by taxes, it seems someone should just say raise the tuition to a reasonable amount and let the students know the requirements, and they can pay the extra if they want to take other courses or longer to graduate. Unfortunately the Legislators are paid to go the Capital to write laws and they are measured by the number they write, so when a student comes in and wants help, the Legislator writes a law and it affects us. GE is always a problem and cutting GE should be okay (according to them) across the board; but we as educators, need to look at what do we want in a well-rounded student for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

One thought was suggested to have 39 units of GE and require all students to take a minor other than their major. The students would still have to meet the 120 semester unit graduation requirements. Also, one-third of all the faculty in the CSU have been hired since 2000 and the majority of classes are taught by part timers, so there now are fewer faculty that are part of the question.

Community colleges are pushing to offer Bachelor's degrees, and the CSU's are pushing for Professional Doctorates and a bill is already being fought by the UC's. However, the CSU's are requesting professional doctorates such as the DBA or a nursing doctorate, etc. because the UC's offer the PhD's which are considered a research doctorate. Most of the Legislators are saying yes, let the CSU offer professional doctorates since research PhD's are already at the UC's.

Tapie said the main thing to look at right now is the upper division (Capstone) classes and what categories does the student need in each area to be a well-rounded student. We need to look at what we have for graduation requirements and what we have for GE and look at our internal policies for the next year.

Tapie recommended that all the minutes for this year be given to the Senate as a report from the GE Committee with a one-page cover sheet and that will fulfill the committee's requirement for this year; and they will know we have been meeting and are being productive. The committee agreed.

Susan regrets the turf issues for the GE committee because members are always torn between allegiances to a certain college and are trying at the same time to look at what is good for the student. People who have no turf at all, just people "behind the veil" who would be ignorant of the political problems, would make the best type of committee to make some of these decisions. Then a package could be put together

from people who know what is needed and what is best for the student. Steve said he remembers what happened to him when he tried that two years ago when he was first on this committee. Unfortunately, when items come down to the Senate, it can become political.

Tapie stated that when John Craig was on the Senate, he always objected if requests were not what GE was supposed to be about. Steve said as a department talks about what they want in a course and how it satisfies the requirement they are asked “what are you doing in the class,” do you learn anything and what do they learn about; for example if it is his jogging class, “jogging” patterns and what is taught at the community college. How can the community colleges be teaching the same thing as our classes, or how can we know what they are teaching in their classes? Susan said at the CSU there are a variety of measurements and some standards set by requesting writing papers etc. but no one wants to do that, especially for large classes.

Tapie said he can nominate anyone that is interested to sit on the state-wide Articulation Committee because they are always looking for people to serve. The question was asked, what is being reviewed? And what if it doesn't follow what is required? The only way to really know is by reviewing each course syllabus and/or a classroom visitation. CAN (Course Articulation Number) was always being fought with community colleges; but now with the replacement of CAN by the LDTP (Lower-Division Transfer Program) maybe it will improve. Steve said they are always running into problems in his area. Tapie said there is now a committee that will say if a course meets the articulation requirements or not.

Steve and Susan asked Tapie to nominate them to serve on the State Articulation Committee. Further discussion included comments about the community colleges giving short-answer tests and do they have the same lab requirements as ours; it seems it would be different, and that means the transfer students coming here are not well trained. CAN was allowing these courses in because of grandfathering, but with LDTP they will not have the grandfather option.

Then the question was asked about the classes being offered through long-distance learning, which opens up a whole new set of problems. Steve gave an example of what some of those problems would be if his KINE class was taught by some “CD voice.” It seems like the Legislators want everyone to get a technical degree. Tapie said CSUSB is being questioned about those students that come here and need an extra year to graduate; and the comment was made that if the student had come here in the first place, they would not be in that situation.

Other problems that were briefly addressed were the number of classes that can be repeated on our campus differs from the other campuses; and then politically correct problems in courses, i.e., gender or disabilities and that no one (not just specific groups) is turned away from the CSU, so we are not able to have the kind of limitations set by private universities. There are a lot of areas to be considered in next year's discussions.

This will be the last meeting this year. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Please submit your Fall schedule to Sharon (and Steve). If possible, also submit your current Winter quarter schedule as well. We would like to select a day and time that everyone can meet on a consistent basis throughout each quarter, and perhaps even for the entire year.

Thank you all for your hard work this year and have a great summer!

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