

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
2004-2005

Minutes of Meeting: 10/28/04, 4:00 p.m. in JB-404

Members Present: C.E. Tapie Rohm, Jr.—BPA, Stephen Kinzey (Chair)—NS, Allen Butt—SBS,

Absent: Milton Clark (Admin), Susan Finsen—A&L, Ina Katz—Ed, Ezekiel Bonillas—ASI
(Student Representative)

Guest: Doug Smith, Chemistry

Steve welcomed the members and asked for a review of the May 17th minutes for approval.

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

New Business:

1. GE Curricular Course Proposals

Objective: To determine if the following requests are congruent with the general education standards.

- i. CHEM 205 (B3, Physical Sciences)—Pre-requisite change
- ii. CHEM 215 (B3, Physical Sciences)—Description and pre-requisite change
- iii. NSCI 110 (E1, Physical and Physiological Issues)—Course deletion
- iv. CSCI 121 (B4, Special Topics in Science Technology)—Name change from *Computer Technology and People* to *Quantum Computing*
- v. CSCI 124 (B4, Special Topics in Science Technology)—Dropping *Exploring the Information Superhighway* from GE
- vi. CSCI 122 (B4, Special Topics in Science Technology)—Adding *Bioinformatics* in place of CSCI 124

Doug Smith from Chemistry distributed handouts to further explain the Chemistry 215 course proposal. He explained that the change would drop one of the lab units and make it a recitation class period for that unit, with no change in the total 6 units for the course, but 4 would be in lecture, 1 in lab and 1 in recitation. This will allow a smaller class size and more one-on-one help for reviews and to bring the students current on levels of skills required for the course. Many students are having trouble keeping up because of the amount of work required in the lab, and this change will help the students lacking in chemistry skills to become more in line with the national average and thus gain more from the actual class. The students will greatly benefit from the smaller class sizes, and this format has proven successful at other universities. Doug said the department agreed to the change.

Chemistry 205 was discussed. The current wording makes it unclear that there is a pre-requisite or a concurrent co-requisite, and Doug said that it should be one or the other, not both and thanked the committee for making that clarification.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt and passed unanimously to accept Items #i and #ii and approve the CHEM 215 proposal as submitted and the CHEM 205 course proposal amended to include the word “or” between the prerequisite and co-requisite.

There was a brief discussion about Item #iii and it was noted that it is the deletion of a course that has not been offered for several years.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt and passed unanimously to accept Item #iii, NSCI 110 as a deleted course.

The CSCI course proposals were discussed. It was noted that a name change for the CSCI 121 course suggests that it should be given a new number. The original number 121 was set up to meet the B4 GE category and was originally set up to be as it exists today. The decision by Natural Sciences that it does not meet their requirement for inclusion in the general education category B4 could be confusing if the number is left the same, because other departments still use the current number.

It was recommended that the CSCI 121 course be deleted and assigned a new number and upgrade the title.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt and passed unanimously to accept the recommendation to drop CSCI 121 from the GE category, but not delete the course. It can then be assigned a new number and title for the Natural Sciences purposes.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt and passed unanimously to accept CSCI 122 as a new course in the GE B4 category in place of CSCI 124, which will be deleted.

2. Review Each 306 Course

Objective: a. To determine if discrepancies exist within the 306 syllabi.

Objective: b. To determine if an early review encompassing all 306 courses is necessary.

Objective: c. To determine if a regulation of all 306 courses is prudent:

- i. Instructor preparation
- ii. 306 Coordinator

Tapie reminded the committee that last year he recommended that 306 be removed from GE because it can be fulfilled by exam. There was a brief discussion about the passing rate being so low on our campus as compared with the other campuses in the system. The extremely low number of students taking the exam also contributes to the low passing rate. The discussion reviewed the agenda objectives, the number of GE units we currently have and a comparison with the other campuses number of units.

It was moved by Tapie Rohm to accept having the GE Committee review objectives a, b, and c this year and determine recommendations to be made, and to make objective a, “b” and objective b, “a” (just reverse the order for discussion by the committee). Justification: Because of the problems in

the GE courses, the Faculty Senate has created an ad hoc committee to review the GE courses because the last review took place about 15 years ago.

This information will be good for the committee to have and Steve, as GE chair, is on that committee. This will be a fact-finding mission for the committee as it starts its own review.

Allen recommended that objective c needs more information and suggested adding an objective d to review the future of GVAR.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt, and passed unanimously that Item #2 be accepted as items to be reviewed by the GE Committee this year with the following adjustments: Objective "a" becomes the second objective and named "b," and objective "b" becomes the first objective and named "a." An objective "d" be added to review the future of the writing exam, GVAR.

Therefore the objectives for Item 2: Review of each 306 course are:

Objective: a. To determine if an early review encompassing all 306 courses is necessary.

Objective: b. To determine if discrepancies exist within the 306 syllabi.

Objective: c. To determine if a regulation of all 306 courses is prudent:

i. Instructor preparation

ii. 306 Coordinator

Objective: d. To review the appropriateness of the current GVAR assessment by examination.

3. Review the Policy Concerning Guidelines for the General Education Program (FSD 91-06.R3)

Objective: To evaluate the current GE program and determine if it meets the needs of students in the 21st Century.

M/S/P: It was moved by Tapie Rohm, seconded by Allen Butt, and passed unanimously that Item #3 be reviewed during the year by the GE Committee, which would correspond with the ad hoc committee of the Senate.

There was a brief discussion of Faculty Senate Document 91-06.R3 and Executive Order 595 and how they are similar and how they are different. The background of the extra two units in GE and how it came about to come up to parity for each college was also discussed. The minutes of the previous meetings discuss most of these topics.

The committee briefly discussed the topic of the possibility of giving an Information Literacy Test to incoming students and if they don't pass it, then they would need to take two new courses to be developed by Computer Sciences and Information and Decision Sciences departments. The question was asked if the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate has the authority to require another test. If a GE category requirement is out of compliance, it could give the GE committee the opportunity to review the exam and courses and make sure the Information Literacy requirement is met.

It was mentioned that many European colleges are now giving three-year degrees, and international students are having trouble entering the cal state system because they are required to take another

year of classes to be equivalent to a four-year degree. The problem arises because the European countries now have a 13th year in high school in preparation to entering college. If this continues to impact students entering American campuses, it may have to be addressed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 18, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. in JB-404.

Note: The next meeting was held Wednesday, January 19, 2005.

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