Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee
November 2, 2016
SF 466
2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Eric Fricke, Julie Glass, Caron Inouye, Sarah Nielsen, Aline Soules, Mitchell Watnik, Chongqi Wu.
Absent: Luz Calvo, Zach Hallab, Rita Liberti, Maureen Scharberg.
Guests: Erik Helgren, Christian Roessler, Xinjian Lu.

The Chair (Glass) called the meeting to order at 2:05.

1. Approval of Agenda. (M Watnik/S Fricke/P). The minutes were not posted by the Senate Office and will be postponed.
2. Approval of 10/26/16 minutes. Postponed since they were not posted by the Senate Office.
3. Reports
   a. Report of the Chair. The Philosophy Department will be informed by the subcommittee when A3 courses come up for their input. Jennifer Eagan will attend next week’s meeting with the Philosophy Department’s proposals and will give an overview of the Department’s view of A3. Soules suggested analyzing whether the subcommittee needs to meet more than weekly for a brief time.
   b. Report of General Education Director. Inouye said that an issue of whether one department’s courses might impede on other department’s courses. As an example, the Sports Economics course might overlap with a Kinesiology course and there was no consultation. Watnik said if there is an objection outside the college, the department should note such on Curriculog and, if no agreement can be reached, APGS would refer the course to CIC.
4. Business (courses available in Curriculog):
   a. Physics courses.
      i. PHYS 104 (M Inouye/S Soules/P unanimous) for B1 and B3. There were questions about Fourier analysis in the learning outcomes without a mathematics prerequisite. Helgren noted that the computer provides the results. There was also a question about whether the ethics part of the learning outcomes were addressed. Some subcommittee members noted the “not the ‘right answer’” addressed the ethics.
      ii. PHYS 125 (M Soules/S Inouye/P unanimous) for B1 and B3. Watnik asked about MATH 120 as a prerequisite and recommended that either “or MATH 130” or “appropriate score on the Math Department Placement Test” in addition.
iii. **PHYS 126 (M Soules/ S Nielsen/5-2-1)** for B1 and B3. This course is not necessary under the semester regime since it has 125 as a prerequisite. Helgren said that, on occasion, students are allowed to take 126 without 125 (provided that they have certain background). It was pointed out that this might encourage students to take courses out of sequence and without the proper prerequisite. Inouye indicated that exceptions could be made by her office.

iv. **PHYS 139 (M Watnik/S Fricke/ )** for B3. *(M Soules/S Fricke/P)* to postpone due to lack of B1 pre- or co-requisite. The course will be held until PHYS 138 is considered for B1.

v. **PHYS 304 (M Watnik/S Soules/ )** for B6. There was a concern about the “facility limits” (large lecture) course capacity when the course speaks about being hands-on. There was also a concern about the phrasing “scientific validity of the results”. *(M Glass/S Watnik/P)* to reroute to address above considerations.

vi. **PHYS 307 (M Nielsen/S Inouye/P unanimous)** for B6. Subcommittee members encouraged Physics to apply for sustainability overlay. Helgren pointed out that there is cross-listing with ENST 307. The Subcommittee will put a comment to reconsider this when the cross-listed course comes through.

vii. **PHYS 303 (M Soules/S Bliss/P unanimous)** for B6. There was a comment about the facilities limits course capacity, but there aren’t hands-on activities like in PHYS 304.

b. **ECON courses.**

i. **ECON 100.** Roessler said that the Department is withdrawing the application.

ii. **ECON 200. (M Soules/S Inouye/P unanimous) to D1-D3.** Liberti emailed the subcommittee to ask about the “produce, resist, transform” outcome. A subcommittee member noted that the assignments discussed how market forces can be changed through government intervention and taxation (for example).

iii. **ECON 205. (M Wu/S Nielsen/P unanimous) for D1-D3.** There was a similar point from Liberti about “produce, resist, transform”. Some members noted that these are addressed in a sense, but with lesser detail. Roessler asked whether the department is being asked to teach another discipline (such as sociology) within an Economics course.

iv. **ECON 306 (M Fricke/S Inouye/P unanimous) for D4.**

v. **ECON 310 (M Soules/S Fricke/ ).** Watnik objected to the “scientific content” of the course. He also noted that the course was inherently statistical. *(M Bliss/S Nielsen/P)* to table while there is a general discussion about B6.
vi. Other courses. Due to time, the subcommittee was unable to consider the other proposals.
c. Chemistry. Due to time, these courses were not considered.
d. English. Due to time, these courses will be considered at a future meeting.

5. From the floor. The subcommittee decided to handle Philosophy, Chemistry, English (only those considered previously), Anthropology and to address B6 issues. Chemistry and English might be handled by email. B6 will be deferred until Dean Scharberg returns.

6. Adjournment. Glass declared the meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary