Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee
November 9, 2016
SF 466
2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Luz Calvo, Eric Fricke, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Caron Inouye, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Mitchell Watnik, Chongqi Wu.
Absent: Maureen Scharberg, Aline Soules.
Guests: Jennifer Eagan, Xinjian Lu, Michael Massey, Jean Moran.

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

1. Approval of Agenda. (M Nielsen/S Fricke/P). The minutes from 10/26/2016 were not approved previously and added to the agenda.

2. Approval of minutes.
   a. 10/26/16. Postponed since they were not posted by the Senate Office.
   b. 11/2/16. (M Nielsen/S Wu/P with abstention). There was a question about the Economics courses addressing power.

3. Reports
   a. Report of the Chair. Glass said that she is still looking into banking the course. There was discussion about 4 unit GE courses are being rejected by CLASS and there was concern as to whether the chair or Watnik (as the Committee chair) should speak with administration. Watnik mentioned that the Senate Chair intends to meet with the Undergraduate Dean and/or the Provost.
   b. Report of General Education Director. Inouye suggested regarding the 4 unit issue above that the applications include a justification for more than 3 units.

4. Business (courses available in Curriculog):
   a. CHEM and ENGL courses held over were approved by email vote.
   b. ENSC / GEOL classes.
      i. ENSC 220 (M Liberti/S Bliss/P unanimous) for B1. There were no specific questions.
      ii. ENSC 240 (M Bliss/S Calvo/P unanimous) for B2. Inouye noted that the course learning outcomes might not be assessable. Massey indicated that the Department would try to revise the outcomes.
      iii. ENSC 241 (M Inouye/ S Nielsen/P unanimous) for B3. There was praise for the "ethics" part of the application. This might be a model proposal.
     iv. ENSC 250 (M Bliss/S Liberti/see below) for B1. (M Bliss/S Inouye/P) to reroute to the Department (Massey) to get more
robust answers to how the outcomes are addressed in the course.

v. ENSC 260 (M Watnik/S Nielsen/P unanimous) for B1 and B3. The form for B1 indicates 2 units, but should be 3 units.

vi. ENSC 280 (M Inouye/S Bliss/P unanimous) for B1. The form for B1 indicates 2 units, but should be 3 units. Members said that this might be a model proposal.

vii. ENSC 320 (M Nielsen/S Inouye/P unanimous) for B6. There was a comment about the facilities limits course capacity, but there aren't hands-on activities. This course will be used for Liberal Studies. There was a question about whether this course might apply for sustainability.

viii. GEOL 235 (M Bliss/S Inouye/see below) for B1. (M Watnik/S Nielsen/P) to reroute to the Department (Moran) to get more robust answers to how the outcomes are addressed in the course.

ix. GEOL 310 (M Liberti/S Inouye/P unanimous) for B6. The phrase “An introductory course” in the Catalog description was struck with consent of the Department. (The PDF form was unchanged.) This was due to an upper division course with advanced science should not be described in those words.

x. GEOL 340 (M Watnik/S Liberti/P unanimous) for B6.

c. Philosophy courses. Before the courses, Eagan discussed the Critical Thinking requirement generally. On other campuses, the A3 requirement has been “watered down”. Here, only PHIL and PSYC have offered A3 courses. She made an analogy to writing courses and communication courses. She said that these courses discuss logic as logic, argumentation, formal and informal logic, symbolic and natural language logic. She said that the form of the argument is what is considered, not the content. Some community colleges use A3 as a second composition course and our transfer students don’t have the same level of understanding. Locally, there are 6 assignments on critical thinking (which will be easier over 15 weeks than 10 weeks). Eagan acknowledged A3 courses are hard and might be a bottleneck. She indicated that small class sizes are important. The guidelines forbid literary and art criticism. (Inouye indicated that she has seen some courses on criticism that she has rejected.) She encouraged the subcommittee not to approve courses that don’t meet standards so that they are not rejected during review as inappropriate. Glass noted that the subcommittee has agreed to inform Philosophy if there is an A3 proposal.

i. PHIL 100. (M Nielsen/S Inouye/P with one abstention) to A3. Glass noted that this is the subcommittee’s first A3 application. There was praise for the application.

ii. PHIL 310. (M Bliss/S Liberti/see below) to C4 and Social Justice. It was noted that this is the subcommittee’s first
overlay application. Some concerns were expressed about the vagueness of the social justice application. A member indicated a change in the Catalog description to specify the social justice outcomes. It was also indicated that specific examples for 2a outcomes for overlay. Subcommittee members expressed that they want the outcomes “embedded” so to be noted in the description and the course learning outcomes. The C4 portion was fine. (M Glass/S Watnik/P) to send back to the Department to fix up for social justice.

iii. PHIL 313. There was side discussion as to whether cross-listing could count for the majors. (If the BSBA students take the PHIL section of a course cross-listed as BUS could count for GE.) This course historically was team-taught, but now is separate. CBE is accepting of separating the course, as they do not want to adhere to the course cap of 30. The subcommittee rerouted the course to allow the Department to divorce the course from BUS 313. (M Glass/S Watnik/P) to return to PHIL, per the notes above.

iv. PHIL 331 (M Watnik/S Bliss/P unanimous) for C4. The prerequisites A1-A3 are not on the GE form, but is in Curriculog. Also, the form does not have the learning outcomes listed on Curriculog.

v. PHIL 342 (M Liberti/S Bliss/P unanimous) for C4. The prerequisites A1-A3 are not on the GE form, but is in Curriculog. Also, the form does not have the learning outcomes listed on Curriculog.

5. From the floor. The subcommittee decided to handle Anthropology and perhaps another department (as determined by the Chair) and to address B6 issues.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary