Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee
February 9, 2015
LI 2250
2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Present: Lawrence Bliss, Jennifer Eagan, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Linda Ivey, Yi Karnes, Rita Liberti, Sally Murphy, Diane Satin, Aline Soules, Mitchell Watnik
Absent: none.
Guests: Eileen Barrett, Tom Hird, James Houpis, Buddy James, William Lawson, Glen Perry, Jason Singley, Gale Young.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:06.

1. Approval of the agenda. (M Soules/S Glass/P)

2. Approval of the minutes of Jan. 26. (M Soules/S Bliss/P). There were no minutes for the 2/2 special meeting yet. However, the subcommittee agreed to meet on occasional Tuesdays, 8:30-10:00, starting March 3; March 17; March 30 (Monday) will be a special Monday 2-4 meeting; April 7; April 21; May 5; May 19; May 26; June 2. It will be likely that some of these will be cancelled, as work requires.

3. New Business
   a. ART/ COMM/ MUS/ THEA 2269 Arts and Media in the Golden State for C1-3. (M Bliss/S Hallab/ )
      James and Hird indicated that each section would have 120 students and, so, the common meeting would be 480 students. Instructors would handle 2 big lectures each, plus the opportunity for guest speakers. Concerns were expressed about assignment rubrics vs. learning outcomes and whether the topics were more social science (as opposed to fine arts/humanities). The subcommittee expressed pedagogical concerns regarding the large class size and the point of the course. There was a substitute motion that the courses would be approved, subject to a cap would be 45 per section (M Watnik/S Bliss/P).
   b. MLL 3812 for C4. Move to postpone (M Eagan/S Bliss/P).
   c. COMM 3690 for C4. (M Murphy/S Hallab/P)
      Lawson explained that this course provides an unusual characteristic of actually going to sites where documentaries were filmed. This is part of a study abroad experience. The course would only be offered in summer.
   d. COMM 3691 for Area F. (M Bliss/S Murphy/P). Murphy explained that Area F means activity must be at least 50% of the course. Lawson noted that, according to the syllabus, the activity is really 70% of the
grade. This will be also a study abroad course offered only as self-support during the summer.

e. Preparations for GE Conversations. Eagan indicated that there has been one survey response so far. An email was sent to “regfac” from the Senate Office. In addition, an email was sent to CLASS faculty and will be sent to the Science faculty. Murphy indicated that Tamra Donnelly and Sarah Aubert would help with big poster boards during the forums. First forum is Thursday at 2. There was some discussion about student participation at the forums.

f. Discussion with the Provost. Houpis advocated for an “integrated GE”, not a piecemeal set of courses. “What do we want our students to get out of [GE].” At one point, the conversation turned to workload. Houpis indicated that, with larger class sizes, the faculty could teach fewer classes (that is, meet enrollment targets with fewer classes). The “drivers” are faculty salary, enrollment targets, tenure-track to lecturer ratio, and student faculty ratios.

4. Old Business - none

5. Adjournment. (M Glass/S Liberti/P). The meeting was adjourned at 4:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitchell Watnik, subcommittee secretary