Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee
April 11, 2018
SF 329
2:00 PM – 3:50 PM

Present: Eileen Barrett, Larry Bliss, Patrick Fleming, Julie Glass, Zach Hallab, Caron Inouye, Rita Liberti, Sarah Nielsen, Filippo Rebessi, Aline Soules, Chongqi Wu, Meiling Wu

Absent: Mitchell Watnik

Guests: Fadi Castronovo, Dennis Chester

1. Approval of the Agenda. Glass called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. (M M. Wu/S Barrett/P) to approve the “virtual agenda” including reports and the courses posted).

2. Approval of the Minutes. Minutes from March 28, 2018 were approved. (M M. Wu/S Barrett/P with 2 abstentions)

3. Welcome to New Member. Prof. Patrick Fleming (Chemistry and Biochemistry) takes the place of Prof. Derek Kimball as College of Science representative on the GE Subcommittee for Spring 2018.

4. Consultation with Prof. Fadi Castronovo (Engineering) re. ENGR 400/4000 application for D4. Concerns were expressed from the Subcommittee re. whether the course was general in nature and whether the course is more appropriate as a C4 rather than a D4 course. Dr. Castronovo emphasized that the course goals are interdisciplinary (design, engineering, architecture, technology, history, culture, etc.) and in the spirit of GE, as the course is not intended for only ENGR majors. This course is adapted from a course he taught at Penn State. He stated that although there is a significant historical context to the course, our History department had not been consulted. He also emphasized that the course should be kept as a D4 course, as social science is at its core. Prof. Castronovo will send Chair Glass and GE Director Inouye an updated version of the D4 application which will be uploaded to Curriculog.

5. Reports.
   (a) Chair. Julie Glass requested a motion to approve an email be sent to Mitch Watnik, Maureen Scharberg, and Gwyan Rhabyt re. the Subcommittee’s B6 course approval practice which will no longer include the requirement that B6 courses state, “Not for major credit.” Instead, B6 courses will be evaluated on the “general nature” of the course and whether the course meets the stated B6 outcomes. No additional statements will be required. Further, the Subcommittee will reach out to departments with approved B6 courses to see if they want the “not for major credit” statement removed. Motion approved. (M Barrett/S Nielsen/P)

   (b) GE Director. Caron Inouye reported on:
      --The update on GE C3. More discussion later.
--The pilot GE assessment project for written communication during AY 2018-19 will include courses in A2, A4 (second comp), C4, and D4. Faculty participants from ENGL have been organized to start rubric development this quarter (Spring 2018).
--Director will request a GE Assessment Subcommittee under CAPR be established and approved for next year.
--Distinction between GE assessment and GE course recertification process. The Subcommittee should discuss the timing and process of GE course renewals and how to align it to GE assessment without encouraging the misperception that GE assessment will be punitive.
--Update of GE Course Request forms, particularly B4 (to reflect the updated B4 outcomes). Edited versions will be made available for the next Subcommittee meeting.

6. New Business. (Approvals are unanimous unless stated otherwise.)
(a) Courses for Review (and moved to consent)
  • ENGR 400/4000 for D4. (M Soules/S Hallab/P)
  • ANTH 311 for B6. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • ANTH 312 for B6. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • BIOL 230 for B2 and B3. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • ECON 102 for D1-3. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • HIST 328 for C4. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • HOSP 235 for E. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • MLL 362 for C4 (previously approved)
  • MLL 366 for C4 (previously approved); for Social Justice. (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
  • PSYC 100 (M Barrett/S Soules/P)
(b) Course for Review (and tabled for consultation)
  • ANTH 333 for Diversity. Move to table for consult with E. Barrett. Course lacks U.S. focus. (M Bliss/S Soules/P with 1 abstention)
(c) Courses for Review (and rejected)
  • ES 320 for . Moved to reject. SLO 2 in particular has minor edits and remains weak despite having consulted with Liberti—concerns have not been addressed. The Subcommittee recommends resubmission in the future with significant attention to detail. (M Barrett/S Bliss/P with 2 abstentions)
(d) Discussion of C3
Associate Dean Dennis Chester attended for participation in the discussion of C3. Dean Chester sought guidance on how to proceed with designating CLASS’s C3 courses as C1 or C2. This prompted Chair Glass to show a side-by-side comparison of existing C1, C2, and C3 learning outcomes. From this comparison, it is clear that the C3 outcomes are closely aligned to those of C1 and C2 and that current C3 courses can be approved for C1 or C2 without any modification of the original GE proposals. Down the road, however, the Subcommittee will discuss revising Area C1 and C2 learning outcomes. Inouye expressed concerns over variable unit (1-2 unit) C3 courses, e.g., some courses in DANC and whether this will be allowed in Area C. Also, some C3-approved courses have descriptions that will need to be updated ASAP to be aligned with C1 or C2 criteria.
7. **Adjournment.** The Subcommittee adjourned at 3:50 PM. (M Liberti/S Rebessi/P)