Minutes of the General Education, Overlay, and Code Subcommittee
March 13, 2019
SF 328
2:00 pm - 3:50 pm


Absent: Steve Peng, Meiling Wu.
Guests: Varick Erickson, Karina Garbesi, Joshua Kerr, Danika LeDuc.

Glass called the meeting to order at 2:04.

1. Approval of the Agenda  (M Fleming/S Lampe/P)
2. Approval of the Minutes.
   a. February 27.  (M Fleming/S Smetana/P)
   b. February 13.  (M Inouye/S Smetana/P with an abstention)
3. Reports.
   a. Chair.  Glass asked members to introduce themselves to benefit the new member. She noted that ExCom is likely to refer the GE Task Force Report to the subcommittee.
   b. GE Director.  Inouye said that there was “nothing really major to report”.
4. Business and Discussion.  (Approvals are unanimous unless stated otherwise.)
   a. BIOL 334. (M Bliss/S Barrett/P there was an abstention) to approve the course maintain B6 and Sustainability while offered online.  There were questions as to whether the “online syllabus” was provided.  (In the middle of the discussion, the time certain at 6a was addressed).  In looking at Curriculog, it appeared that a proposed online syllabus was provided.
   b. HIST 391.  (M Inouye/S Lampe/P there was an abstention) to approve as Social Justice, pending changes to sample syllabus (to be approved by Inouye).
   c. HIST 393.  (M Glass/S Bliss/P) to reject offering online.  There were concerns about the syllabus for online delivery.
   d. HIST 394.  (M Glass/S Bliss/P) to table until next meeting.  There was confusion over whether it had been approved for GE earlier.  (It had not.)  Some members had not read it carefully because they thought the course had been approved.
   e. HIST 480.  The course was held while the Chair of Kinesiology was asked if they were consulted as indicated.  Yingling confirmed that there was consultation.  (M Fleming/S Barrett/P) to approve for C4.  There was confusion over whether the course would be offered online, as well.  (The box was checked on the C4 application, but not in Curriculog.)
   f. DANC 234.  No syllabus was provided.
   g. CS 100.  (M Glass/S Fleming/) to reject the course for B4.  Erickson argued that SFSU has a similar B4 course, but noted that the learning outcomes might be better.  He noted that the corequisite CS 100A has been approved in Curriculog.  CS intends to modify their learning outcomes.  Erickson noted that their intention is to offer a very similar course to SFSU’s.  According to LeDuc, the college has been working to modify the course and has scheduled a college curriculum committee meeting to just address this
course. She asked for “concrete feedback” to bring to the college (as opposed to iterating). Kerr noted that the EO 1110 meetings have not included CS Departments. He noted that majors courses are not B4. San Marcos’ CS B4 course has B4 prerequisite. SDSU’s CS intro course is not GE; their B4 course is for non-majors. The same for SFSU, according to him. Kerr indicated that he feels the catalog description does not address B4 outcomes. The level of the quantitative outcomes are not baccalaureate level, in his opinion. He feels that the book is a programming text and does not address quantitative outcomes and gave the course table of contents. Erickson said that CS 100 is not a major course (101 is and is not intended for GE). He said that the examples in the texts are quantitative in nature. Glass said “if SFSU is making a mistake, we don’t have to make the same mistake.” She said that she sees how the course might use quantitative skills, but does not see how it develops those skills. Substitute (M Glass/S Fleming/P) to table to allow CS revisions.

h. GS 321 and 322 for Diversity and Hybrid offering. (M Glass/S Barrett/P there were abstentions). Barrett wanted clarification that students had to complete both courses.

5. Information Not addressed due to time.

6. Discussion.

a. Proposed Climate Neutrality Overlay from Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability. Garbesi indicated that the Sustainability Committee Chair couldn’t attend. She noted that the University committed to teaching climate neutrality. She added that it was difficult to discuss this issue during quarter to semester conversion. There currently is no mandated coverage of climate neutrality. One option was to have four overlays and mandate students to take 3 of the 4. Another is to reconsider the sustainability overlay (the committee does not recommend this option). Yet another is to create a fourth mandated overlay. Garbesi was asked whether students are represented on the committee and Garbesi indicated that there is an ASI officer. Garbesi was asked whether a new overlay was necessary, as opposed to just adding a designation within sustainability. She responded by saying that maybe 2 courses in the sustainability overlay are focused on climate neutrality. A member then asked whether there would be a sufficient number of courses across campus that could or would meet the proposed threshold. A “module” was suggested. Garbesi noted that there were implementation issues, as well as the level of information would be insufficient. Watnik noted that having four overlays could be problematic for high unit majors and/or transfer students. Barrett asked whether there could be recommended syllabi for courses that might meet the proposed area and to show availability across campus. Inouye wondered whether the climate neutrality overlay could be addressed in B1 or B2. Glass noted that any course on climate neutrality would likely meet the existing sustainability outcomes, diminishing the necessity for a fourth overlay. She whether the agreement signed by the president, although saying “climate neutrality”, meant sustainability more generally. Bliss encouraged members to “look at the proposal from the students’ point of view” and referred to overlay requirements as causing a “tricky dance” for transfer students, which additional overlays would further confuse. (M Barrett/S Glass/P) to ask Garbesi to provide a possible list of courses that could meet the outcomes and be offered as upper division GE or meeting other requirements (such as major or lower division GE). Members also asked for information regarding other campuses and how they meet analogous requirements.

7. Adjournment. (M Barrett/S Inouye/P). The subcommittee adjourned at 3:59 PM.