

General Education Committee

Minutes for October 1, 2003

Present: Steve Reece (chair, HUM), Robert Smith (FA), Terry Fitzgerald (SAS), Chris Chiappari (IGS), Brittany Larson (Student Member), Erik Fosheim (Student Voting Member), Katherine Baker (Registrar's Office representative, ex-officio), Dana Gross (NSM)
The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Minutes from the September 17th meeting were approved, with some minor editing.
2. Four courses were considered and approved for the following GE attributes:

GE #908 Dance 110, FUNdamentally Dance, for PHA and ALS-A. The committee discussed the policy for awarding GE credit for courses that carry less than 1 full credit; Dance 110 is a .25-credit course. Students must take four .25-credit courses in the same area (e.g., all Dance or all Art, rather than sampling across areas).

GE #909 Dance 201, Body Moveable, for PHA. The committee noted that this is a .50-credit course.

GE #917 Religion 217, Christian and Islamic Ethics: Conflicts and Crosspollination, for EIN.

GE # 920 Psychology 390c: Precepting, for ORC.

3. The committee discussed the question of whether the Registrar should include GE attributes for courses in the next edition of the catalog. One concern is that the information may become inaccurate before the next edition is printed. The most accurate information about GE attributes is in the Class & Lab Schedule, which is available on the Web and in print format. To avoid confusion, the committee decided to support leaving information about GE attributes out of the next catalog.

At the next GEC meeting (10/15), the committee will consider two documents, General Education Accreditation of Transfer Work, and General Education Accreditation of Off-campus Work. In reviewing these documents, the committee will determine (1) whether they clearly present the policies for receiving credit for transfer work and off-campus work and (2) whether the policies themselves are appropriate. Sally Gonzalez and Helen Stellmaker will be invited to attend the meeting and help the committee understand the issues. Erik will gather information from an ad hoc committee of transfer students and other students who have been affected by these policies. An additional goal of the discussion on 10/15 will be to bring the GE documents into agreement with the policies that are stated in the catalog.

4. The committee discussed how to respond when individual faculty request that GEC review GE attributes. The discussion was prompted by a request from one individual that

GEC consider the guidelines for MCS-D and MCS-G. The committee decided that GEC would consider specific proposals if they are presented by individuals or groups of faculty. Following GEC discussion of the proposal, the issue may then be brought to the entire faculty to consider and perhaps vote on at a Faculty Meeting.

5. Chair Reece asked that the Registrar's Office provide the members of GEC with a listing of all currently active courses, arranged by GE attributes. Katherine will follow up on this request.
6. The committee noted that the Registrar's recent summary of junior and senior students' progress toward completing GE requirements was helpful. The number of seniors who need to complete the EIN requirement during Interim or Semester II appears to be typical and can be accommodated by the number of EIN courses that will be available during those terms.
7. Erik reported that, although he had provided information, he had not heard back from a student who had inquired after the last GEC meeting about receiving retroactive GE credit (for WRI or MCS-G) for a course taught during Interim 2003 by a visiting professor. It was noted that individual faculty, especially visiting faculty, may not realize that courses they teach carry GE attributes or may have them attached. Department chairs should be aware of this information and help faculty teaching in their department understand it.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Gross, Secretary pro tempore