

General Education Committee

Minutes for October 30, 2002

Present: Steve Reece, chair (HUM), Bruce Dalgaard (IGS), Robert Smith (FA), Naurine Lennox (SAS), Eli Townsend (Student Voting Member), Vanessa Wheeler (Student Non-voting Member), Solveig Zempel (Associate Dean, IGS), ex-officio, Nanette Schroeder (Registrar representative), ex-officio, Dana Gross (NSM).

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

The minutes of the October 2nd meeting were approved without addition or correction.

For **the first order of business**, the committee considered a student petition to receive ORC credit for Mass Media 160, a course the student completed during the spring of the 2000-2001 academic year. The course was approved for ORC credit in December 2001. The committee evaluated the petition in light of the existing GEC policy for petition for retroactive accreditation, a policy that was created November 17, 1999, and revised April 11, 2001. Some GEC members had only the original version in their GEC folders.

Nanette reported that the Registrar has denied retroactive credit in the past and apparently was unaware of the GEC policy. Discussion then turned to questions about the exact wording of the most recent policy and whether the policy is fair. Questions were also raised about the statute of limitations for the policy. There have not been many retroactive cases in the past, and most have been for ORC. Names of petitioners are not included in the GEC minutes, so tracking down all denied petitioners would be difficult, if not impossible.

According to the GEC policy, if the petition is approved, all students enrolled in the same course as the petitioner receive the GE credit. At a future meeting, the committee may wish to revise the policy to address the statute of limitations (e.g., specifying that petitions must be filed within one year of the time the course was completed).

The committee approved the petition for Mass Media 160. The Registrar's Office will contact all affected students who were in the course to determine whether they need ORC credit and award it if appropriate.

For the **second order of business**, the committee considered and approved three course proposals:

- **Nursing 110, Nutrition and Wellness**, for NST (this is a previously approved Interim course that is now going to be offered as a semester-long course). The committee was unsure whether GEC approval was necessary, given the previous approval for the NST credit for the Interim course. Dormant courses that are being reinstated raised a similar question about the role of GEC. This point was relevant to discussion of the course proposal for German 268.

- **German 268, Minority Voices: Turkish Germans**, for MCS-G and FOL-G
- **Sociology/Anthropology 231, Modern Ireland**, for ORC

The chair will seek clarification of GEC's role vis-a-vis proposals for previously approved courses, such as Interim courses that become semester-long courses and dormant courses that are reinstated.

The third and final order of business was discussion of the procedure for approving and monitoring the ORC attribute. The chair will present the GEC proposal as a green sheet at the November 7th faculty meeting. The GEC proposal adds a paragraph under Comments (p. 13 on the purple GEC sheets). It removes the need to change course numbers when adding ORC to a course, and it enables sections of the same course to have ORC or not have ORC.

The Registrar's Office supports the proposal because it will simplify record-keeping. The Registrar currently tracks Catalog and Class & Lab information for GE attributes. The section and instructor designations show up only in the Class & Lab, which is considered the "contract" for GE attributes. The GE attributes may soon be dropped from the Catalog. The proposed change to the ORC procedure will make it more similar to procedures for WRI, which is tracked through the Class & Lab, not the Catalog. Students will need to check the GE attributes for each section of courses they wish to take.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Gross, Secretary pro tempore