

**General Education Committee
Minutes, December 1, 1999**

Present: Abdella, Bauer, Hoekstra, Lund, Day, Sorensen, Abelson

Guests: Dan Hofrenning; Jim Farrell, Mary Titus, Colin Wells

1. Eric Lund called the meeting to order at about 3:25 p.m.
2. Minutes. The minutes of the November 17, 1999, meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Course Approval.

#750 Environmental Studies 201. *HBS: Approved.*

#17 Fine Arts 274. *ORC: Approved.*

4. American Conversations. Jim Farrell, Mary Titus, and Colin Wells joined the committee for a discussion of the American Conversations program. The committee reviewed the syllabi for the proposed four courses in the "American Conversations" (no numbers; working titles: Freedoms: 1620-1865; Making of the American and America: 1800-1900; Remaking America: 1865-1945; Pursuits of Happiness: 1820-2000; 17 pages) and "American Conversations --proposal for a five course, general education program" (12 pages). The following issues were addressed:

- the concept of "dense facts" and the relative stability of the course content with changing teams of instructors;
- the lead teacher's responsibility for assuring the observation of GE guidelines;
- FYW component of the course;
- HBS--both curricular and staffing issues; Dan Hofrenning will convene a meeting of SAS chairs to discuss staffing and curricular implications; Farrell explained the socio-autobiography assignment
- ALS-A--the involvement of Matt Rohn in planning the "AmCon"; Farrell's training in American art history and his teaching of the American art history survey; the particular focus on the visual arts and architecture; the presence of at least one "dense fact" in each course in art or architecture.

It was moved, second and voted unanimously that the proposed "American Conversations" program be approved for the following GE credit, according to the following schedule:

- HWC -- after the completion of the second course
- FYW -- after the completion of the second course
- MCS-D -- after the completion of the third course
- ALS-L -- after the completion of the third course
- ALS-A -- after the completion of the fourth course
- HBS -- after the completion of the fourth course

5. Petition for Retroactive Credit. The committee received a petition from John Keisler, '00 on behalf of himself, Kate Troy and Erik Wammer, enrolled in Health Care: Global Perspectives, in the 1998-99 Global Semester Program, that they receive retroactive NST-B credit, as provided in the recently approved GEC Guidelines for this issue. The committee also received a note from the instructor, Ted Johnson, Biology, in support of the petition.

Eric Lund reported on his further conversations with Ted Johnson and assured the committee that the course as offered was essentially the same as the course subsequently approved for GEC credit. The petition was approved.

6. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John T. Day, Secretary Pro tem