

GEC Meeting
Minutes 12/10/03

GEC members present: Steve Reece (chair, HUM), Solveig Zempel (Associate Dean, IGS), Dana Gross (NSM), Terry Fitzgerald (SAS), Robert Smith (FA), Chris Chiappari (IGS), Erik Fosheim (Student Voting Member)

Other Attendees: Mary Cisar (Registrar), David Booth (Center for Integrated Studies), Jo Beld (Academic Research & Planning), Naurine Lennox (Diversity Education Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

- I. Minutes from the November 12th meeting were approved.
- II. Three courses were considered and approved for the following GE attributes:
 - GE # 922: HIST 276-Landscapes and Landmarks of History: South Africa for MCS-G
 - GE # 924: MS 242-Marketing Practice Across Cultures: Interim in Iringa, Tanzania for MCS-G and HBS
 - GE # 923: BIO 261-Ecological Principles for NST-B and NSL (retroactive to Fall of 2002).

It was noted that the NST criterion has to be from two different departments or programs in order to count.
- III. The committee and its invited guests discussed the roles of GEC and CEPC in initiating changes to the GE. Solveig Zempel noted that adding and subtracting courses or new GE attributes to the curriculum is not part of GEC's responsibilities, according to the faculty manual, but rather that of CEPC, which is responsible for "alterations in curricular design." GEC's purpose is "to supervise the GE components of the college's curriculum. David Booth suggested, however, that the language of these policies is vague, and thus should be clarified. The committee agreed on this point.

Mary Cisar commented that changes in MCS seem to shade into the area of curricular change, and thus might have to pass through CEPC. Steve Reece clarified that a change from a GE component attribute to a GE course attribute must go through CEPC, while a change in an attribute goes through GEC. David suggested that the Curricular Coordinating Committee is a body that could be charged with changing the curriculum. It was agreed that the new GE Task Force to be appointed by Dean May should coordinate and facilitate the process of evaluating and changing the curriculum as a whole, and that the committee would wait till the Task Force is formed before coming to a conclusion on this point.

- IV. The committee and its invited guests discussed the College Librarian's request (presented to us at our November meeting) that GE consider ways to formalize training in research methods within the curriculum. It was concluded that there are rules on the books governing the role of individual departments in implementing research and writing requirements for majors, but they are not enforced. It was decided that Steve would contact Diane Leblanc about reminding department chairs about enforcing these writing requirements.
- V. The committee and its invited guests discussed the Diversity Education Coordinator's proposal to revisit the guidelines for MCS-D and MCS-G. On the basis of the meeting Naurine Lennox had with Chris Chiappari, they made several recommendations (see handout). In brief, these include changing the MCS-D attribute from a component to a course, and that the language and issues relating to diversity in the curriculum should be investigated through a data-gathering process on a campus-wide basis. It was decided, however, that we would wait until the GE Task Force is formed before proceeding with this topic.
- VI. Steve noted that the GEC webpage, along with those of the other college committees, is in the process of being redone, which is why it is not very accessible at the present time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Chiappari, Secretary pro tempore