

GEC Meeting minutes

April 11, 2001

Members Present: Abdella (Chair, NSM), Day (Assoc. Dean, IGS), Feldt (FA), Lennox (SAS), Prestwood (student member), Wells (HUM). Guest: Rick Fairbanks.

AGENDA

1) April 4 minutes were approved with two corrections.

2) Announcements.

Colin presented a question from Rich DuRocher. Rich will teach a course previously taught by Eric Nelson, Eng 399: Major Seminar (GEC 720). The course covers many topics and carries credit in the major, however, Eric's course also carried the EIN attribute. Rich plans to teach Eric's course with only slight changes and would like it to receive EIN credit. Does he need to go through regular channels to receive the EIN attribute? Committee members agreed this seems unnecessary. Beth will check with Registrar to see what procedure should be followed to assign EIN credit to GEC 720.

Eliminate #4 from today's agenda. Religion 225 already has BTS-T attribute. It is simply moving to Semester II (per Barbour memo).

Dave Prestwood informed committee members that Student Senate has discussed the ORC issue, and by overwhelming numbers, supports its continuation. Hall council, etc. will continue to gather information from their constituents and report back to Dave after Easter break. If desired (or needed), Senate will write and submit a letter in support of maintaining the ORC requirement.

Dave also announced that elections for student representatives to Faculty Committees are Friday, April 20. There is currently only one candidate for GEC, first year student, Niels Knutson. Dave is confident in Niels' ability to serve.

3) Consideration of GE courses.

GEC #818: Education 170: Schools and Urban Communities approved for MCS-D.
IS 206: Topic: Media Revolutions in History approved for HWC. No GEC # assigned.

4) See announcements.

5) Discussion of friendly amendment to GEC policy on retroactive accreditation dated 4/11/01. Changes appear in *italics*. Colin suggested a friendly re-write which was approved. The approved amendment follows.

1. In general, approval of courses for general education credit is not a retroactive action. Courses approved in the same semester that they are offered will result in the current students receiving the attribute as long as the proposer agrees that the current course is the same as the proposed course. Otherwise, the credit applies to future offerings of a course.

6) Discussion of EIN rule: Section III.C.1. of General Education Accreditation of Off Campus Work: Policies and Procedures. Should St. Olaf students be allowed to transfer EIN credit from an off campus course? This issue was first brought to the committee's attention in a memo dated 2/27/01 from Rick Fairbanks. The Wolf Ridge Program (summer session) is an approved St. Olaf program, but currently involves no member of the St. Olaf faculty. Rick argues that students should be allowed to transfer EIN credit from this program because it is a STO approved course and it is taught by highly qualified faculty, albeit not STO faculty. The Registrar's Office (Margaret) supports a move to allow students to transfer EIN credit. Two basic issues to address, 1) the Wolf Ridge Program specifically, and 2) the larger issue of EIN credit for courses not taught by STO faculty. Is there a reason for Section III.C.1? Is EIN so important it can only be taught by an STO faculty member? Why can't a potential off campus EIN course be approved by an EIN "tsar" in the same manner as other GE courses? There are three potential actions the committee can take, 1) leave everything as is, 2) move forward on EIN credit for approved courses that happen on a regular basis, and 3) act on specific student proposals as they come in. Rick Fairbanks offered his take and opinion on the current EIN transfer policy.

The recommended amendment to Section III.C.1 of General Education Accreditation of Off Campus Work: Policies and Procedures and General Education Accreditation of Transfer Work: Policies and Procedures for Transfer Students follows. Ethical Issues and Normative Perspectives (EIN) - This requirement may be met by an upper level college course in ethics that meets the published EIN guidelines.

John suggested the General Education Accreditation of Off Campus Work: Policies and Procedures be posted on the web.

7) ORC data for sophomore and junior classes.

1. Class of '02: of 730 class members, 525 have completed the ORC requirement. Sixty-eight are registered in ORC courses, Spring 00-01, leaving 137 students to complete the ORC requirement next year.

2. Class of '03: of 742 class members, 238 have completed the ORC requirement. 126 are registered in ORC courses, Spring 00-01, leaving 378 students to complete the ORC requirements over the next two years.

The class of '03 is worse off if we simply compare the last two numbers in each class -- that is 137 of the class of '02 and 378 of the class of '03. These numbers certainly underline the importance of effective long-term advising.

Discussion returned to Dave's announcement about Student Senate interest in the future of ORC. John has been charged with gathering information on the administration's plans for the future of ORC.

Adjournment at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Feldt