

General Education Committee

Minutes for April 23, 2003

Present: Steve Reece, chair (HUM), Bruce Dalgaard (IGS), Solveig Zempel (Associate Dean, IGS), Naurine Lennox (SAS), Eli Townsend (Student Voting Member) Robert Smith (FA), Vanessa Wheeler (Student Member), ex-officio, Katherine Baker (Registrar Representative).

The chair called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

The minutes of March 12, 2003 were approved with following paragraph withdrawn:
The committee postponed consideration of German 371 (GE#898) Topics in Literature and German 372 (GE#899) Topics in German Studies. Action on these is pending further discussion on handling of topics courses and GE attributes.

The committee considered and acted on the following course proposals:

- Approved **Interdisciplinary studies 239: Peacebuilding and Conflict Management** for HBS GE #901
- Approved **Norwegian 140: Norway: Continuity and Change** for ORC and HBS GE #902
- Approved **Music 234: Russian Music** for ALS-A GE #903
- Approved **AH 250: The Arts of the African Diaspora** for ALS-A and MCS-D GE #900
- Approved (re-instatement) **Religion 246: Islam - Religion and Community** for MCS GE #329
- Approved **Interdisciplinary Studies 230: Communicating Science and Mathematics** for ORC GE #904

The committee expressed effusive enthusiasm for Music 234: Russian Music, feeling that it will be a help to the Russian Studies curriculum, and 1st yr. Students.

There was considerable discussion regarding Interdisciplinary Studies 230, especially regarding offering the course as a p/n for ORC GE credit and whether or not there would be enough accountability from students and professors considering the nature of the summer program. The summer program is not a course, but it is attached to a .25 course in the fall. The ORC guidelines on the GEC webpage state that the ORC requirement can be "a .25 course, or its' equivalent incorporated within a full credit course." Though it has not materialized, it was pointed out that historically, at its' inception, the possibility of .25 ORC courses was envisioned.

Though the summer program is not technically a course, ORC seems substantially integrated with content in very appropriate ways. The committee feels, therefore that the content of the

program seems to fulfill the 'spirit' of ORC and provides students opportunity to substantially present their work orally to people in the 'real world,' not only their classmates.

In summary, the committee would like to recommend that the course be offered 'as is' with p/n as a pilot program. The committee requests that the instructor submit feedback in the form of a report in March 2004. Feedback should comment on the success of the course, whether p/n appeared to work, whether it should be graded, etc. This report may come in the form of a letter or a scheduled meeting with the committee in person.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next meeting will be at 3:30 on May 14th , 2003.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Smith, Secretary pro tempore