

GEC Meeting minutes

April 4, 2001

Members Present: Abdella (Chair, NSM), Dalgaard (SAS), Day (Assoc. Dean, IGS), Feldt (FA), Lennox (IGS), Prestwood (student member), Stano (student observer), Wells (HUM).

Guests: ORC Advisory Committee: Jo Beld, Karen Achberger, Rick Goedde, Susan Lindley, Carl Isaacson.

Beth Abdella called the meeting to order at 3:15.

1. Approval of minutes: minutes of March 28, 2001 were approved.
2. Announcements: Beth Abdella announced that reconsideration of GEC 815 would be placed on the agenda for April 11.
3. Open discussion of ORC with ORC Advisory Committee:

Both committees discuss the status of the ORC requirement and the number of ORC course offerings.

The primary issue was whether, and to what extent, the College should continue its commitment to providing every student with ORC instruction, practice, and feedback, given two challenges: (1) the lack of a Speech-Communication specialist on campus to assist in training and supporting instructors of ORC courses, and (2) the potential lack of sufficient ORC offerings for future classes, especially in the wake of dropping the Public Speaking course.

On the first challenge: Some argued the ORC cannot be sustained without a Communications specialist on campus; others observed that student and teacher response to ORC courses have been overwhelmingly positive, calling for continued commitment even without such a specialist. Suggestions for solutions included: the possibility of creating a full or part time position of Director of Oral Communications, who would oversee workshops, help instructors, and even give guest lectures in ORC classes. The committee suggested that this be brought before the Dean's Council.

On the second challenge. The immediate question was where the Sophomore and Junior class stands in terms of fulfilling this requirement. Beth agreed to ask the Registrar for more data on this. Another suggestion was to find out why some instructors who attended the ORC workshop have still not taught an ORC course. Jo Beld said that she intended to contact these teachers, and would inform the GEC about what she learns from these discussions.

Other ideas discussed: the possibility of making ORC "instructor-designated," like WRI courses; of providing financial or other incentive for teaching ORC courses (such as allowing lower enrollments); of arranging meetings with chairs of departments that aren't currently offering any or very many ORC courses; of attaching ORC to another college-wide requirement, to programs

such as American or Asian Conversations; of allowing some students to get ORC credit for summer research or other activity.

4. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45

Respectfully submitted,
Colin Wells