

General Education Committee

Minutes for September 19, 2001

Members present: Alison Feldt (Chair, FA), Steve Reece (HUM), John Day (IGS, Associate Dean), Niels Knutson (Elected Student), Naurine Lennox (SAS), and Jill Dietz (NSM).

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

Minutes of the September 5th meeting were approved with one minor correction.

Student member, Niels Knutson, reported that his efforts this week to recruit a non-voting student member whose schedule permits attendance at the meetings have been unsuccessful. He will redouble his efforts.

The Committee considered a student's petition to receive BTS-T credit for a course taken off-campus in a program that is not accompanied by a St. Olaf professor. Additional documentation will be requested from the Program Advisor Vern Rippley, the IOS office and the Registrar prior to reconsideration of the petition and making a determination.

(GE #115) Theatre 379: Theater in Society was considered for EIN. It was noted that this course cannot carry both the EIN attribute (proposed) and the MCS-D attribute (current) simultaneously, according to "Multiple-Counting in the GE Curriculum" Guideline #3, p. 3. The Chair will ask the faculty member to provide expanded description for the rationale, in keeping with the committee's practice to regularize statements of rationale in proposals.

The committee considered a draft letter to be sent to faculty reminding them of the updated guidelines for courses carrying the ORC attribute—a course that incorporates "specific instruction, practice, and feedback to develop oral communication competence and confidence" not "A quarter-credit course, or its equivalent incorporated within a full-credit course..." The letter also encourages faculty to consider adding this attribute to a current course or to propose new courses carrying this attribute. John Day will ask Jo Beld's editorial input and then distribute the memo to the faculty from him and the GE Committee.

Kristy Sybilrud, Information Management Coordinator, will join the committee at the September 26 meeting to discuss her responsibilities in general coordination of the committee's work and, specifically, the issue of tracking GE attributes assigned to "Topics" courses.

The Chair shared a message from President Thomforde asking the Committee to determine its priorities for action this year and a timetable for their completion. This will be accomplished in the next two meetings. Priorities include monitoring the courses carrying GE attributes and discussion concerning the ORC requirement. The Chair will ask the Registrar to send information about the number of seniors needing to complete the ORC requirement this year.

Changes made on 4-11-01 in the GEC Policy on Petitions for Retroactive Accreditation were reviewed and the document was accepted as revised.

The Committee opened consideration of two policy statements "General Education Accreditation of Off-Campus Work: Policies and Procedures" and "General Education Accreditation of Transfer Work: Policies and Procedures for Transfer Students." Program Advisors will be asked to share the experiences with using these documents and any ideas they have for changes.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Naurine Lennox, Secretary Pro Tempore