

**General Education Curriculum Committee**  
**Meeting of January 9, 2009, 2:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

*Attending (Voting):* Beattie, Busch, Cox, French, Futrell, Haworth, Jones, Karpoff, Koerselman, Martin, Menezes, Weinberg, Williams, Zimmerman, *(Non-Voting):* Billingsley, Carden, Dablow, Dietrich, Reed, Robinson, Steinberg

**Introductions**

Joe Dablow, Associate Director of Enrollment Management, and Jody Reed, Project Manager for Degree Audit, were introduced as new “non-voting” members of the GECC.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of November 21, 2008 were approved.

**Course Proposal Modifications**

The modifications to the JA 300 proposal (Career Development & Cultural Intelligence-CD1) were approved by the Course Proposal Subcommittee and, therefore, by the full committee.

**Update on Assessment**

Robinson reported that the plan to assess the Natural Sciences competencies is on track. A finalized draft of the language for the rubric will be shared at the February GECC meeting.

**GECC Guidelines and Recommendations to Provost**

In reference to Billingsley memo of November 17, policy and procedural issues that are not currently outlined in the GECC guidelines were presented for discussion and recommendation as follows:

- **Cultural Diversity as a Graduation Requirement** – The original GECC rationale and recommendation to require CD as a graduation requirement for all students (including transfer students) was reconsidered after weighing the pros and cons of the timing (budget constraints, etc.). A motion was made and approved (with one opposition) to abide by the state block transfer statute; if a “transfer student” is fully certified (as noted on transcript) under this state policy, then the University will not recommend additional CD course work. Steinberg commented that this more seamless process will assist advisors in becoming more consistent in practice across units. Her suggestion that advisors be instructed about the definition of being “fully certified” was included in the revised motion.
- **Pass/Fail Grades in General Education Courses** – After discussion about the reasons that a student might request a pass/fail grade and considering the various practices among units and even within units, as well as the value of grades for general education courses

(not compromising the integrity of the program), the GECC unanimously agreed that no general education course should be taken as Pass/Fail. Also, it was recommended that this decision be advertised to advisors (faculty and professional), the faculty (through the Deans) and stated on pertinent forms so that students are fully informed. It will be important to make part-time instructors aware of this policy prior to the effective date (projected for Fall 2009). This recommendation will go forward to the Undergraduate Council and governing bodies.

- **General Education Requirements for Second-Degree Students** – The GECC unanimously agreed that students in residence who are pursuing a second baccalaureate degree should not be required to meet the general education requirements. This faster track will not present road blocks for students trying another field and will become increasingly more important in a struggling economy.

#### CD Credit: Transfer Students and Study Abroad Petitions

Most questions about general education requirements have historically arisen among transfer students. Concerning the recommended provision allowing students to petition for CD credit for appropriate equivalences, as well as for Study Abroad cultural learning, the GECC discussed how the process could be facilitated in terms of monitoring. Steinberg's office reviews the equivalences. Since the number of potential study abroad petitions is yet unknown, Billingsley recommended that the GECC collect and review the petitions. Following the initial phase, determination about the need for an evaluative subcommittee can be made.

#### New Catalog Dates

With the publication of the catalog in April 2009, the university's undergraduate catalog year will run from the beginning of summer term to the end of the spring term following.

#### Frequency of Course Offerings

Williams raised the topic of inactive courses in relation to the GECC frequency of offerings guidelines that outline an expectation that content courses be offered annually. His specific concern was with the 199 courses (HUM 199, ML 199, WGST 199) that have not been offered under the Written Communications content area for a number of years. Dablow reported that there was an attempt to audit and clean up the course listing in 2007. Concerning these particular courses, one department chair (Elaine Wise) recommended deleting HUM 199; however, the other department chair (Nancy Theriot) did not want to remove the WGST 199 cross listing at that time. It was reported that A&S periodically cleans up their course inventory, and the consensus seemed to be that units take ownership in this administrative monitoring task. This issue gave rise to the greater issue of the degree of change in general education courses since their original approval. No vote was taken on either issue.

Prepared by Kathy Carden