

**General Education Curriculum Committee
Meeting of December 11, 2015, 2:30**

Minutes

Attending (Voting): Alagaraja, Allen, Banks, Bertacco, Bradley, Brueggemann, Cobourn, Hagan, Reynolds, Singleton, Swanson

(Non-Voting): Billingsley, Carden, Dietrich, Gilchrist, Partin, Reed, Wiggins-Romesburg

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 9, 2015, were approved.

CD Petitions Update

Wiggins-Romesburg reported that nine CD petitions (6 CD1, 3 CD2) were reviewed; eight of those were approved. The CD Petition Committee never received responses back from students who submitted incomplete petitions over the summer.

Proposal: CD Petition Limitations

In the gen-ed section of the undergraduate catalog, the statement "CD credit by petition is limited to one course," has been interpreted by the CD Petition Subcommittee to mean that only one three-hour course credit can be rewarded through the petition process across all areas (Study Abroad, Transfer Course, and Life Experience). The subcommittee asked for approval to formalize and clarify the statement to avoid confusion. Currently, the statement is listed separately under all three categories, which could be misinterpreted by the petitioner. Therefore, it was proposed that a heading (disclaimer) be added at the top of the guidelines, stating that "Students may petition for CD course credit in one of these areas." Although there are three possible ways to get the credit, it is limited to only one area. Sometimes students seek approval for both CD1 and CD2 credit without a clear understanding of the limit, or they try a different category if not initially successful. Frequently, military students submit proposals based on their life experiences. Billingsley stressed that petitions must demonstrate the fulfillment of student learning outcomes for CD credit.

***ACTION:** A motion was made and approved to clarify the policy by adding the additional wording (limitations statement) at the top of the CD petition section of the catalog.

Proposal: Change in CD1/CD2 Definitions and General Education Revision

Billingsley reported on the general-education reform proposal which includes changes to the CD1 and CD2 definitions. The current CD definitions will shift to a more inclusive focus regarding race, gender identity, ethnicity, religion and other types of diversity as part of the CD1 (U.S.) requirement, and to a larger geography/global awareness from a comparative perspective as part of the CD2 (global) requirement. Rajack-Talley's subcommittee is working on the new definitions. If approved, this means that with the re-writing of current SLOs that courses cannot roll over. Governance and assessment would need to be addressed and methods considered for evaluating the revised courses and streamlining the process. Pruning back the number of

general-education course offerings is also a goal, based not just on notification to departments about inactive courses but on new student learning outcomes. Dietrich and Bertacco recommended a greater level of course reviews at the unit level. Billingsley reminded the committee that revisions to the general-education program are outside the purview of the GECC. However, a sample syllabus could be provided. Already, the General Education Assessment Office is assessing syllabi.

Proposal: Cambridge AICE Exam Credit

Wiggins-Romesburg reported on a request to the CD Petition Subcommittee to consider a proposal to accept the successful completion of the Cambridge AICE Exam Credit for CD2 credit. The exam is given at Fairdale High School. The subcommittee reviewed the AICE Exam materials and was not in favor of a *blanket acceptance* of this exam for CD2 credit with a vote of 3 (No) to 2 (Yes). Rather, the subcommittee recommended that any student who passed the exam could petition for a waiver to receive CD credit. The subcommittee felt that the materials provided for AICE were focused on skills *rather than* content, and some subcommittee members felt that CD2 requires students to acquire skills *through* content. Bertacco spoke to this concern. Specifically, the syllabus is based on a genre of texts for different areas of the world, rather than on providing cultural content for doing comparisons among cultures. Also, high-school level instruction is different from college-level expertise. Reynolds questioned the aspect of students choosing different cultural themes without achieving the same CD gen-ed outcomes established for UofL courses.

***ACTION:** A motion was made and approved to allow these students who passed the Cambridge AICE Exam to submit a Transfer Course Petition for CD credit.

Status of AA/AS Policy Change Proposal for General Education Credit

Billingsley reported that the Provost requested an explicit statement about differentiating between Kentucky and non-Kentucky AA/AS transfers. Students who graduate from Kentucky public institutions with AA (Associate of Arts) or AS (Associate of Science) degrees will be deemed to have completed the university's full general education program. Other students who present the transcript for an AA or AS degree from a regionally-accredited institution will be considered for core general education certification.

***ACTION:** Partin will submit a revision to the policy statement for publication in the catalog.

General Education Assessment Updates

Wiggins-Romesburg gave an update on the general education assessments scheduled for the spring semester as follows:

- **Arts and Humanities and Mathematics** content areas
 - **Assessment:** Saturday, March 5
 - **Arts & Humanities Training:** Friday, February 26, 11:30
 - **Math Training:** Friday, March 4, 11:30

The Assessment Office has received artifacts for approximately 65 sections, which is about a 30% response rate. A reminder will be sent regarding the final due date.

Volunteer readers, including GECC members, are being sought to participate in either assessment. Participants receive a stipend of \$500 for approximately 10 hours of service

(6 hours to complete the assessment and 4 hours for the training using sample artifacts and a benchmarking exercise). Meals and a comfortable atmosphere also are provided.

***ACTION:** Interested volunteers can contact Wiggins-Romesburg.

***ACTION:** Singleton suggested that the training session be postponed until noon to accommodate several readers who have a conflict on Friday mornings.

The **Social & Behavioral Sciences** and **Cultural Diversity** assessments will occur in May. The Assessment Office has met with all of the department chairs and is sending a notification to instructors regarding the collection of Spring artifacts.

Revised Gen-Ed Web Site

The new gen-ed web site is up and running. Billingsley commented that the general education site is the most frequently visited page in the Provost's Office, especially during registration.

Prepared by Kathy Carden