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GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

9 November 2004 8:30 a.m.
Champ Hall Conference Room

A meeting of the General Education Subcommittee was held on 9 November at 8:30 a.m. in the Champ Hall Conference Room.

Membership Norm Jones, Chair
Mary Leavitt, Advising
Jeffrey Smitten, English (excused)
John Mortensen, Advising
Richard Mueller, College of Science
John Lackstrom, Languages
Cindy Moulton, Registrar's Office (excused)
Tyler Bowles, Economics (excused)
Vince Lafferty, Continuing Education
Stacie Gomm, CIL
Mark Brunson, Natural Resources (excused)
Tom Peterson, Interior Design
Renee Galliher, Psychology, College of Education & Human Services [new member replacing Shelley Lindauer, who requested year's leave of absence]
Wendy Holliday, Library (excused)
Heidi V. Evans, ASUSU (excused)

Norm welcomed Renee Galliher, who is representing CEHS.

I. Approval of Minutes of 12 October meeting minutes

II. Course Approvals

a. COMD5100 for CI

Has not officially been approved but has been used as CI; Norm will be in touch with the Head of Communications Disorders to confer.

** Norm conferred with COMD, and they would like to have CI removed.

b. CHEM1110 for BPS

Recommendation to accept as BPS; this brings it in parallel with other institutions in the state. It was approved.

c. ENVS 5540 – Under review

Tabled until Mark Brunson is present

d. USU1300 – New instructors, Mark Welsh and Bruce Nye

Tyler Bowles sent a report recommending approval. The committee voted on this electronically after the meeting and approved both instructors.

e. USU 1330 – New instructor, Eric Smigel

Tom Peterson noted that this is a new instructor for an existing course, and the committee recommended approval. It was approved.

- f. ECE 3820 – CI
Still under review at Rhonda Miller's CI committee
- g. BIOL4750H – CI
Recommended for approval by Rhonda Miller's CI Committee. Because this is a "topics" course, this cannot be a continuing CI designation. The committee suggested that students could apply this on individual basis, based on waiver. Richard Mueller will investigate further and report back.
- h. History 3460 Comparative
The committee has sent it back to the instructor for a minor change to demonstrate how it meets DHA requirement.

III. Two USU-course requirement

- a. Currently, in order to graduate a student must have completed two USU-prefix courses of the six required. Some problems have arisen due to transfer students, major requirements. There's also feeling from students that these can be difficult to enroll in.
- b. The USU-prefix courses are a hallmark of University Studies program.
- c. Interdisciplinary courses offer students a wide breadth of experiences, not just a narrow course (e.g., 1330 covers all fine arts as opposed to Introduction to Music, Introduction to Theatre Arts, which gives a narrower approach).
- d. A principle for transfer students would be that if an additional course is required, it can be petitioned for waiver. For instance, a student transfers to USU with 5 of the 6 breadth areas completed, and the degree requires a breadth course that is not a USU-prefix course. Advisors should provide an analysis to students at point of entry outlining the requirements and either noting USU-prefix requirements at that time OR requesting a waiver.
- e. The committee is recommending a reconvening of each sub-committee to look at syllabi and test them with the matrix of goals. The committees will look first at the USU-prefix courses.
- f. Norm and Richard pointed out that the USU-prefix courses often are new creations and are not only interesting in themselves but the faculty teaching them enjoys them enormously, too.
- g. Joyce requested that USU-prefix courses be given a chance to have bottleneck addressed through curriculum management.

ACTION: sub-committees will be convened to analyze USU-prefix syllabi and provide an evaluation of their efficacy and adherence to goals.

IV. 6th breadth course (implemented in fall 2000)

- a. This requirement stipulates that students complete a breadth course within the field of study. Thus, a major in political science would take a BSS course; a physics major would take a BPS course. This 6th requirement also helps USU have a higher number of courses dedicated to general education. It's also easier to track electronically. For almost all majors this is a moot point, as the intro class qualifies for a breadth. Departments that currently do not have breadth designation for their intro classes will be asked to do so. HPER and Music may be two departments of concern. CNR may also have a problem.
- b. John Mortensen recommended that students who have taken a higher course in the area be allowed to waive the breadth course.

- c. Heidi Beck noted that it must be programmed in Degree Audit as a waiver, so it can be tracked along with students.

ACTION: John Mortensen will draft some language on appropriate waivers. Norm will follow up with departments that do not currently have a breadth introduction course.

- V. Two depth requirement for transfer students
 - a. There are 3 categories of depth courses: Humanities/Arts; Social Sciences; Sciences.
 - b. For transfer students who enter with associates degree or letters of completion, they have actually had more general education courses/credits than what USU currently offers.
 - c. There are also more troublesome bottlenecks in depth courses.
 - i. Tom Peterson moved and Renee Galligher seconded that transfer students who have completed associates degree or letters of completion would not be required to complete the two depth courses.

ACTION: The vote split, and the Chair voted against and to put back on agenda for the December meeting.

- VI. Other

The meeting adjourned with 9:35 a.m.