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GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2008 - 8:30 a.m.

Champ Hall Conference Room #136

Present: Richard Mueller (Chair), Wendy Holliday, Nancy Mesner, Gary Straquadine, Grady Brimley, Craig Petersen, Rhonda Miller, Tom Peterson, Cathy Hartman, Brian McCuskey, Rob Barton, Stephanie Hamblin, Mary Leavitt, John Mortensen

Absent: Larry Smith, Phebe Jensen, Wynn Walker, Vince Lafferty, Shelley Lindauer, Richard Cutler, Ryan Dupont, Christie Fox

I. Approval of Minutes

Nancy Mesner motioned that the minutes of September 16, 2008, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Tom Peterson and was unanimously approved.

II. Course Approvals

- a. PEP 4100: Edward Heath Pending revisions to Rhonda Miller
Health, Physical Education and Recreation

III. Syllabus Approval

- a. USU 1330: All syllabi Pending review by Tom Peterson
Creative Arts
- b. USU 1330: David Sidwell Pending revisions to Tom Peterson
Civilization: Creative Arts
- c. USU 1350: Tim Graham Pending review by Ryan Dupont
Integrated Life Science

IV. Other Business

- a. **Educated Persons Conference.** Dick Mueller reminded everyone that the annual Educated Persons Conference is being held on November 7 at Snowbird. He is unable to attend, but encouraged anyone who is able to go. Contact Monica Ingold in History to register.
- b. **General Education Assessment.** Craig Petersen stated that our audit last year revealed some areas of vulnerability. A team will be coming to campus in October 2009 to see what progress we have made. Craig listed the areas of weakness and stated that he would like to see this subcommittee more involved in assessments. As part of the Voluntary System of Accountability "College Portrait" the university has to administer one of three national tests every four years and to post the results on the web. Craig's office will pay for the exam and they are leaning toward the CLA (College Learning Assessment) exam. The test would be administered to a sample of 100 freshmen to establish the baseline and 100 seniors to see what had been accomplished. Wendy Holliday, Rob Barton, Brian McCuskey, and Nancy Mesner offered to work with Craig to take an in depth look at assessments and to bring suggestions back to the Gen Ed Subcommittee next month. Dick will also discuss it with Norm next month when he's in town for the Educated Persons Conference.

- c. **CIL Exam.** Dick Mueller reminded everyone that we have been discussing a double standard regarding the lack of CIL completion for students with associate's degrees from Utah vs. out-of-state institutions. They are treated differently due to Regent's policy that requires USU to accept in-state associates as meeting all Gen Ed requirements. A second issue has arisen regarding charging a late/penalty fee of an additional \$30 if the tests are not passed early enough. Student government is questioning whether the fee went through the proper channels of approval. Rob Barton and Mary Leavitt have both noticed an increase in the number of students taking the tests earlier so perhaps just saying we were going to institute the fee has provided the needed incentive. Rob stated that as far as he could tell the late fee has been policy for quite some time, but it has never been enforced and he is apprehensive to do it now. Brian McCuskey reported that he talked to Jeff Smitten about the consequences of requiring the exam as a prerequisite to ENG 2010. Jeff is supportive, but stated it could be an advising nightmare. Dick stated that the Board of Regents would support this change as long as we can demonstrate it is a valid prerequisite. It was motioned that the CIL exam be a prerequisite to ENG 2010 and that departments be encouraged to make it a prerequisite for depth and mid level courses. Tom Peterson motioned approval and Grady Brimley seconded it. Then Grady asked to be allowed to seek student opinion on this change, so no vote was taken. Mary Leavitt, Rob Barton, and Wendy Holliday will talk to Brock Dethier about the relevance of the prerequisite and draft a memo for the next Gen Ed Subcommittee meeting.

V. Next Meeting – November 18, 2008