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GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2008 - 8:30 a.m.

Champ Hall Conference Room #136

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

Absent: Larry Smith, Wynn Walker, Vince Lafferty, Shelley Lindauer, Richard Cutler, Ryan Dupont

I. Approval of Minutes

Tom Peterson motioned that the minutes of October 21, 2008, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Nancy Mesner and was unanimously approved.

II. Course Approvals

- a. *PEP 4100: Edward Heath, Health, Physical Education and Recreation*
Pending revisions to Rhonda Miller
- b. *THEA 3230: Colin Johnson, Survey of Western Theatre*
Pending revisions to Rhonda Miller

III. Syllabus Approval

- a. *USU 1330: All Creative Arts Syllabi*
Pending review by Tom Peterson based on USU guidelines and committee outcomes from last spring.
- b. *USU 1330: David Sidwell, Civilization: Creative Arts*
Pending revisions to Tom Peterson
- c. *USU 1330: Victoria Berry/Elaine Thatcher, Creative Arts*
Pending review by Tom Peterson. Dick Mueller will check with Norm Jones on the definition of faculty and with Ronda Menlove on the number of needed online RCDE courses.
- d. *USU 1350: Tim Graham, Integrated Life Science*
Ryan Dupont recommended provisional approval pending that Dr. Graham answer a list of questions to the satisfaction of the subcommittee by December 5. Nancy Mesner motioned approval and Christie Fox seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Dick Mueller will talk to Ronda Menlove and the Curriculum Subcommittee about establishing criteria for review of all distance education courses.

IV. Other Business

- a. **Report from Assessment Subcommittee.** Craig Peterson distributed a list the subcommittee created of several things we might do to meet the goals. He reviewed the options and stated that Rob Barton committed to conducting a comprehensive review of the CIL exam and Wendy Holliday will conduct a multi-year analysis of the use of information technology in English 1010 and 2010 classes. Brian McCuskey suggested that course evaluations not be conducted in English 1010 and 2010 classes so they can

track student learning and take grades more seriously without having to worry about evaluations. The subcommittee will meet again next Tuesday and report back to this subcommittee next month. Dick Mueller stated that he still sees a need to review all course syllabi. Wendy Holliday stated that she participated in a review of all syllabi with a breadth information literacy component last spring and she is establishing a website with practical ideas for implementation. She will report on their findings at our next meeting.

b. **CIL Exam Update**

- i. **Success Rates.** Rob Barton stated that his group met and he would email a copy of their statistics to the subcommittee after the meeting. This semester, average scores of the overall tests is 70-80%. There is one test that has very low scores, so that is the one they chose to focus on. He is proposing that the CIL Committee do a complete restructuring that might include removal of testing on some of the skills they obtain in high school such as PowerPoint. Gary Straquadine questioned the utility of the test since everyone passes. Rob stated that he has data on first time pass rates and average scores. Dick stated that he would like them to consider the idea Tom Peterson posed last month about creating one test category allowing students to choose tests relevant to their major. Grady Brimley stated he met with the Academic Senate and Executive Council and found out that tomorrow morning at Stater's Council they are proposing a resolution to remove the CIL Exam as a General Education or graduation requirement. Grady will provide this subcommittee with a copy of the data they will be providing at the meeting. Wendy stated that she felt the bigger question is whether the tests validly measure anything or shows a need for further help. John Mortensen suggested we see what components other schools have and be somewhat consistent.
- ii. **Relevance Memo.** Mary Leavitt stated the issue and impact is who will monitor whether the prerequisite of the CIL for Engl 2010 has been met. Her subcommittee will try to meet before our next meeting and draft a memo about the relevance of the prerequisite.

c. **International Baccalaureate Diploma and Gen Ed Discussion.** Christie Fox agreed to have her agenda item moved to next month due to a shortage of time.

- d. **Sustainability Criteria.** Dick Mueller distributed a copy of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment stating that a sustainability component be incorporated into the curriculum. We have to have a plan in place by spring. Electronic copies of our existing objectives and course criteria will be emailed to all breadth chairs. Dick asked that all breadth designation subcommittee chairs meet with their committee members (and interested colleagues) before our December meeting to review and draft changes to the objectives, content, and criteria. You may use the underlined recommendations on the last few pages on Dick's handout from the sustainability council if you feel they are appropriate. These would be the review criteria for all new courses and will eventually be worked into existing courses. The question was raised as to whether new Gen Ed courses would be rejected if they did not contain a sustainability component. Dick clarified that courses have to meet a variety of criteria, but not all criteria, in order to be approved. There is flexibility because it is just one additional component and it may apply to some courses more than another. It has been recommended that a position be created as a resource to faculty and that they create a website with relevant links, but it may not be feasible due to budget cuts. Wendy Holliday stated that she may know someone in the library who would be interested in gathering the needed information and providing faculty development.

V. **Next Meeting – December 16, 2008**