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## General Education Subcommittee Minutes, April 21, 2009

Utah State University

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## GENERAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2009 - 8:30 a.m.

Champ Hall Conference Room #136

**Present:** Larry Smith (acting Chair), Wendy Holliday, Brock Dethier, Ronda Menlove (for Vince Lafferty), Shelley Lindauer, Nancy Mesner, Tyler Tolson (ASUSU President 2009-2010), Dan Coster, Rhonda Miller, Brian McCuskey, Don Cooley, Christie Fox, Stephanie Hamblin, Mary Leavitt

**Absent:** Richard Mueller, Wynn Walker, Gary Straquadine, Ryan Dupont, Cathy Hartman, Tom Peterson, John Mortensen

#### I. Approval of Minutes

Dan Coster motioned that the minutes of March 17, 2009, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Brian McCuskey and was unanimously approved.

#### II. Course Approval

- a. NFS 5410 (CI) – Pending review
- b. APEC 5015 (CI) – Pending review
- c. APEC 5020 (CI) – Pending review
- d. GEOG 4120 (CI) – Approved
- e. COMD 3100 (DSC) – Pending review
- f. PRP 3050 (QI) – Pending review

#### III. Syllabus Approval

- a. USU 1330: David Sidwell, Creative Arts – Withdrawn

#### IV. Other Business

- a. **Concurrent Enrollment.** Ronda Menlove stated that a committee has spent the last two years looking at how concurrent enrollment is structured and delivered. As a result of their findings, the legislature recently gave further guidance on concurrent enrollment. The New Century Scholarship has been a driving force behind concurrent enrollment by rewarding students who earn an associate's degree (or equivalent) in high school with a two year scholarship that pays for 75% of their university tuition. Now they are moving towards the Regents' Scholarship. It is a little less money, but it rewards students who have been successful academically and have taken rigorous course work in high school.

A records assessment of every student who has completed the New Century Scholarship program at USU revealed that only 3 students completed an associate's degree in 1999-2000; 49 students in 2005-2006; 111 students in 2006-2007; and 218 students in 2007-2008. So, the annual increase is having a budgetary impact. A transcript analysis of what courses students are taking before they attend a university revealed that some students are taking their first year twice. On average, students are taking 55.5 credits of 1000 level courses and about 8 credits of 2000 level courses. Most associate degrees end up being 60-63 credits. So this tells us that they are taking the 1000 level piece of Gen Ed twice. EPC is currently reviewing a proposal to require USU students to take 20 credits of 2000 level coursework in order to earn an associate's degree. They are also developing pathways to advise and lead students to certain

degree areas. This will increase the number of students taking 2000 level classes, but in a limited number of areas and primarily through regional campus broadcast and on-line classes. Don asked how this change will be received by students since they will have to pay regular tuition rates, not the lower concurrent enrollment fees. Ronda stated that in the long run it will be cheaper because not many students are able to graduate in two years. RCDE will also be offering a limited number of scholarships to help these **students. This change will be announced after it has been approved by the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents.** Please contact Ronda if you would like more information on the Regents Scholarship or if you know of a graduate student who would be interested in a research project.

The change in concurrent enrollment will be phased in over multiple years. A document developed by the CAO group of the Board of Regents was distributed to everyone that outlines the first year by listing all the courses that are guaranteed for concurrent enrollment credit. Another change is that institutions cannot offer concurrent enrollment for any class that the high school normally offers in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Ronda also received notice from the Regents this week that as of December we have to stop giving credit for OSS 1400 and USU 1000. We have asked for a year to phase in this change since high schools only register once a year. RCDE has narrowed their concurrent enrollment focus to service regional areas and a small number of rural school districts, but they won't be servicing the Wasatch front as they have in the past. With scarce resources, their mission is to serve nontraditional students and students in the region and rural areas such as Uintah Basin, Tooele, and northern Box Elder County.

- b. **USU Citizen Scholar Objectives Course Criteria and a Place for Interdisciplinary Courses in General Education.** Larry Smith relayed that Dick Mueller asked that the subcommittee start to think about ways we could offer interdisciplinary courses through the General Education system without making it mandatory. It was suggested that they have a USU prefix and be added to the breadth exploratory courses.
- c. **Vote for 2009-2010 Chair.** Christie Fox motioned that Norm Jones be the General Education Subcommittee Chair for 2009-2010. The motion was seconded by Nancy Mesner and was unanimously approved.

## **V. Next Meeting – September 15, 2009**