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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 17, 2012 8:30 A.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Christie Fox, Honors; Larry Smith, Provost's Office; Dick Mueller, Science; Kathy Chudoba, Business; Norm Jones, Chair; Travis Peterson, RCDE; Susan Neel, USU Eastern; Michele Hillard, Secretary; Dan Coster, Quantitative Intensive; Carolyn Cárdenas, Creative Arts; Wendy Holliday, Library; Nancy Mesner, Natural Resources; Janet Anderson, Agriculture; Charlie Huenemann, HASS; Brock Dethier, HASS; Rhonda Miller, Communications; John Mortensen, Registrar's Office; Roberta Herzberg, Social Sciences; Erik Mikkelsen, ASUSU President; Ryan Dupont, Life & Physical Sciences Literacy/Intensive

Absent: Brian McCuskey, English; Stephanie Hamblin, University Advising; Wynn Walker, Engineering; Craig Petersen, American Institutions;

Call to Order - Norm Jones

Approval of Minutes - December 13, 2011 – APPROVED.
Motion carried made by Carolyn Cárdenas, seconded by Dan Coster.

Course Approvals

ARTH 3840 (CI) - PENDING Rhonda Miller
ARTH 4520 (CI) - PENDING Rhonda Miller

Course Removals

N/A

Syllabi Approvals

USU 1320 (BHU) - PENDING..... Brian McCuskey
USU 1350 (BLS) - APPROVED..... Ryan Dupont

Motion carried made by Ryan Dupont, seconded by Nancy Mesner.

Business

Update on proposed USU 1370/3070.....Christie Fox
The committee was tasked with writing the catalog copy for this proposal (see below). The first section is what would actually go on the website. The committee decided that this course should not be offered for anything fewer than 5 credits. In order to fulfill 2 depth categories it must be 5-6 credits. The classes will typically be team taught and will require depth breadth requirements regardless of major. Any exception to team teaching needs to be approved or justified. Quantitative and communicative Communication Intensive skills must be integrated and the course should be designated as a DHS/DHI combo instead of making it a DI. It is anticipated that these courses have a higher learning outcome because they must meet rigorous requirements. It was

recommended that the committee look at the proposals/syllabus before anything moves forward. The committee will come back next month with a model to show the Gen Ed committee. A student must have completed their Gen Ed requirements before they can take the interdisciplinary course.

It was debated whether these courses should have a new, Depth Integration [DI], designation, or should be listed as fulfilling at least two of the three depth areas e.g. DSS/DSC. Concern was expressed that a DI designation would make it possible for students to avoid some of the desired breadth by taking a DI that allowed them to escape another course outside their area of interest. This concern was countered by those who feel that linking other disciplines to the major field will make the courses more relevant.

A meeting with the faculty who teach USU 1360 Faculty will be scheduled in February. Need to see if there is a common core. They will be discussing the common goals of the course.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 Champ Hall Conference Room
8:30 a.m.

USU/HONR 3070 Interdisciplinary Depth (DI)

Catalog copy:

USU/HONR 3070 (variable credit, 5-6 credits)

DI (interdisciplinary depth)

The DI (Interdisciplinary depth) course will combine at least two of the existing depth categories (DHA, DSS, DSC) in a longer format course of at least 5 credits. The class is traditionally team-taught. This class will fulfill the student's depth requirements, regardless of major. Students will integrate quantitative and communication skills.

Pre-requisite:

Repeatable for credit.

Semester traditionally offered: fall, spring

Approval requirements:

The application must specify which depth categories the class will integrate. The course should be rooted in more than one disciplinary convention and should explore the epistemology or ways of knowing in more than one discipline. In order to be approved, a DI course must ask students to utilize quantitative reasoning and communication skills (oral, visual, written, etc.). There is a strong expectation that the class will be team-taught and exceptions to that must be justified in the application.

One of the main goals of the DI course is to help students achieve the citizen scholar objectives. To that end, each DI course must meet these objectives:

- understand processes of acquiring knowledge and information;
- reason logically, critically, creatively, and independently, and be able to address problems in a broad context;
- recognize different ways of thinking, creating, expressing, and communicating through a variety of media;
- understand diversity in value systems and cultures in an interdependent world.

A successful DI course will:

- be problem-based
- be team-taught
- be at least 5 credits
- include two existing depth categories
- require students to demonstrate quantitative and communication skills

The review committee will look favorably upon applications that incorporate service learning, undergraduate research, field-based learning, and other creative pedagogical approaches.