

Winter 11-18-2015

Minutes, November 18, 2015

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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2015

Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Members Present: Brian Katz, Imran Farooqi, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Sarah McDowell, Jamie Nordling, Kelvin Mason, Rob Elflin, Mamata Marme, Nathan Frank, Lisa Seidlitz

Absent: Rachel Weiss, Lendol Calder, Chris Marme, Elizabeth Fetscher (SGA), Kevin Zaldivan (SGA), Caitlin Slone (SGA)

Guests: Christina Myatt, Mike Egan, Katey Bignall

I. Minutes

Motion- Nathan Frank moved **“to approve the minutes of the October 28th meeting as submitted.”**

Jamie Nordling seconded.

Discussion was opened. No changes/additions were noted.

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28TH MEETING AS SUBMITTED.

Christina Myatt will file the minutes with Mary Koski in Academic Affairs.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda items were reviewed by the members of the committee. After reviewing, the committee pulled nearly half of the proposals originally listed on the consent agenda for more in-depth discussion. The remaining courses were approved. The consent agenda included: LSFY 103 courses (Burnham- Anthropocene, Nodulman- Nonverbal), LCs (Clinton Citizen Survey, SWLI-Spring, Nature Society Connections, Latino Spaces QC), LP/Suffix (HIST XXX- PP, LTAM 320- D, SCAN 325- PA).

2. Course Approvals

Mike Egan and Katey Bignall were given the floor to discuss the learning Portfolio LC proposal and answer committee questions.

Mike Egan talked about the pilot program which led to the proposal to integrate the learning portfolio into the curriculum.

Concern- LCs are defined as 4-6 credits. The current proposal is a 3 credit course paired with a 0 credit course.

Response- From a student perspective, it is a 4 credit class. The 0 credit part is overseen by a staff member. While the staff member has an advanced degree they do not have an academic load.

A friendly amendment to a 1 credit rather than 0 credit for the second piece of the course can be made.

Concern- Could a student do one course and not the other?

Response- While it is possible (as is the case with any LC), we would hope this would not be the case.

Concern- How does the course reflect interdisciplinary work?

Response- The definition is really as broad as can be. They will be integrating all areas of study/activity. The way the course is designed parallels the experiential model of LC in many ways.

Concern- How is the “community” defined. It could easily be seen as more of an individual capstone project rather than a community.

Response- The students are learning from the past. In the three credit course there will be discussion and sharing of ideas. In the layout of the course, it really is a community of idea sharers, not just an individual project.

Brian thanked Mike and Katey and they were excused.

Brian then asked for a motion to discuss the proposal.

Jamie Nordling moved **“to approve the learning Portfolio LC proposal”**.

Mamata Marme seconded.

Discussion was opened.

The committee feels strongly that in order to consider this as a learning community it must be 4 credits.

Discussion ensued as to whether or not the course meets the intention of an LC.

The question was raised, would this class only be open to seniors?

The committee would like to see the objectives more well defined between the 3 credit and 1 credit course. Mike Egan had mentioned another document that was prepared for a different committee that answers many of the concerns raised. The committee would like to see that document.

Mamata Marme moved **“to table the approval of this course”**.

A vote was taken. **Motion to table the discussion of approval of the Learning Portfolios LC was tabled.**

Brian Katz will provide feedback and obtain additional information.

3. Update from Academic Affairs

None given.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Upcoming Week 4 CFE programming connects with Gen Ed, we will cohost this program during our regular meeting time.
2. Brian has been asked to attend the 12/3 Faculty Council meeting to discuss the Gen Ed review process. There seems to be some concern with the Consent agenda and if all courses are truly being vetted.
3. Week 2 meeting- There is much to do. The committee will meet on 11/25 at our normal time. Brian Katz will be out of town. Rob Elfine agreed to chair that day's meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Myatt