

Fall 9-2-2015

Minutes, September 2, 2015

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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2015

Olin 304

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

Members Present: Brian Katz, Nathan Frank, Kelvin Mason, Lisa Seidlitz , Xiaowen Zhang, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Mike Egan, Rob Elflin, Rachel Weiss, Sarah McDowell, Jaime Nordling, Caitlin Slone (SGA), Elizabeth Fetscher (SGA)

Absent: Lendol Calder, Mamata Marme, Courtney Kampert (SGA)

Guests: Christina Myatt

I. Minutes

Motion- Rob Elflin moved **“to approve the minutes of the August 26th meeting as submitted.”**

Kelvin Mason seconded.

Discussion was opened. There was no discussion or corrections and so a vote was taken.

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26TH MEETING AS PRESENTED.

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consent Agenda

Hearing no objections from the committee, the consent agenda was passed. The consent agenda included: The approval of two LSFY 102 courses (From Cervantes to Coldplay and Classical Culture and Science Fiction), one LC (RELG 366 and EDUC 270), and the following LP/Suffix additions: RELG 202 PS, CSC 320 PH, CSD 440 PH, GRMN 225 PP, HIST 381 PP & G, GEOG 332 G, GEOG 130 PS & G, GEOG 220 PS & G, SOC 380 PS & G, and ART 362 PA.

B. Course Approvals

1. Approval of Learning Prospective Proposal- GEOG 104 (PN, I)

Mike Egan moved that we accept the proposal for a PN, I for GEOG 104. The motion was seconded by Sarah McDowell.

Discussion was opened. Questions were asked about the I suffix which is no longer a requirement as it is assumed that this component is part of the PN designation. As non-first year students still have this as a requirement for graduation, it was thought best to keep the distinction. However, it was noted that perhaps faculty should be reminded that the I components are now to be included in all PN proposals.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken.

Motion passed to approve GEOG 104 for a PN learning prospective and an I suffix.

2. Approval of Ethnography ANTH 250 as a 4 credit LC

Mike Egan moved that we accept the proposal for the LC for ANTH 250 as a 4 credit course. The motion was seconded by Lisa Seidlitz.

Discussion was opened. Some wondered about the precedent set by this, others wondered about how the credit number could be changed for a course already on the books. Brian Katz reported that he had spoken with the faculty member who submitted the proposal and asked about the possibility of retaining the 3 credit course ANTH 250 with the addition of a 1 credit directed study to create the LC. They agreed to this friendly amendment.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken.

Motion passed to approve the LC of ANTH 250 and a 1 credit directed study.

3. Approval of RELG 3XX for a PH Learning Perspective

Sarah McDowell moved that we accept the proposal for a PH learning prospective for RELG 3XX. The motion was seconded by Rachel Weiss.

Discussion was opened. This proposal is for a course that will be part of the Holden term of study abroad and is already an LC. Some thought that the project description was vague and needed more detail.

There being no further discussion, a vote was taken.

Motion passed to approve RELG 3XX for a PH Learning Perspective.

4. Approval of FREN 212 for a G Suffix

Xiaowen Zhang moved that we accept the proposal for a G suffix for FREN 212. The motion was seconded by Jaime Nordling.

Discussion was opened. Questions arose about if the G-ness was central to the course. Many of the descriptions in the syllabus seem to center around mechanics and grammar. Lisa Seidlitz offered that she is familiar with this course and feels that it is definitely G content driven and that the grammar is secondary. The committee would like to see more detail in the final project – how will students show their understanding of global awareness? The committee would also like to see a clear articulation of how the day to day activities show the G. Some noted that the issue here as is many such proposals is that these connections are often very clear to the “expert” (the faculty member proposing the course) but not always clear to a wider audience. It should be apparent to students as they look at the description and the syllabus exactly how the course handles the G. Some noted that the course’s title does not really speak to the G. It was noted that this course has evolved over time because of who the instructor is. If given a G, future instructors would have to ensure that the G content remained in the course. Some people thought that point #3 on the proposal form which includes “evaluating and examining” needed to be more fleshed out.

The committee asked for clarification in what moves could be made on proposals. Brian Katz outlined what decisions could be made by the committee in terms of approval, denial, and tabling of proposals.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Rob Elflin to table this proposal pending further information. The motion was seconded by Rachel Weiss. A vote was taken.

Motion passed to table the approval of FREN 212 for a G suffix. Brian Katz will provide feedback based on the committee’s discussion.

5. Approval of LSFY 102 Pickpockets to Merchants

Mike Egan moved to approve the LSFY 102 course Pickpockets to Merchants. The motion was seconded by Rob Elflin.

Discussion was opened. The committee had concerns about the lack of depth to the answer, pedagogical concerns, and concerns about outdated language (diskettes and pagers) in the syllabus. There was also some question as to whom the “they say” is. Is it Dickens? Is it the primary documents

used in class? It was thought that perhaps Brian Katz should suggest to the faculty member that they reach out to Rob Elflin to help develop some of answers in order to provide a more meaningful snapshot of what the course will do and assist the committee in seeing how it answers the requirements of an LSFY 102 course.

A motion was made by Lisa Seidlitz to table the approval of this proposal until more information could be obtained. The motion was seconded by Sarah McDowell. A vote was taken.

Motion passed to table the approval of LSFY 102 Pickpockets to Merchants.

C. Updates from Academic Affairs

Jeff asked about the feedback from the LP Signature Question Pilot. Brian Katz will share those reflections with the group.

Jeff also encouraged participation in Symposium Day. This topic, in particular, has a lot of connections to the core curriculum and reinforces the liberal arts perspective. It is hoped that faculty will make connections and encourage the participation of their students. To that end, Brian Katz will draft an email from the committee to the faculty stressing the connections and the importance of participation.

III. ANNOUNCEMENT

The CFE is running a program on signature questions using the LEAP challenge. Committee members were encouraged to participate and work with other faculty. Meetings will be on September 3 at 9:30 and on September 10 at 4:30. On the 10th, Xiaowen, Jeff, Nathan, and Jaime offered to go and help facilitate.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Myatt