

8-23-2017

Minutes, August 23, 2017

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Augustana College
Rock Island, IL

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

August 23, 2017
Olin 304

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM.

Members Present: Rob Elflin (Chair), Mike Egan, Jeff Ratliff-Crain (XO), Chris Strunk, Gillian Lederman, Jamie Nordling, Brian Katz, Stefanie Bluemle, Margaret Morse, Eric Stewart, Lisa Seidlitz

Members Absent: Joe McDowell, Amanda Wilmsmeyer

Guest: Ann Miller, Thomas Tredway Library

I. MINUTES

Motion – Mike Egan moved “**to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting as submitted.**” Jamie Nordling seconded.

MOTION PASSED to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2017 meeting as submitted.

Ann Miller will file the approved minutes with Mary Koski in Academic Affairs.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Petition from AS&D

A petition was submitted for review to the Gen Ed Committee from AS&D. Their committee desired feedback regarding a student who wished to be excused from taking FYI 101 and FYI 102 classes as, due to uncommon circumstances, they had already successfully completed FYI 103. As the overseers of the FYI program, the Gen Ed committee was concerned that exempting students from taking any of the FYI classes would be shortchanging their learning outcomes, as all FYI classes have content and experiences that are valuable to the first year student. The committee also felt that it was not prepared to set a precedent of exemption based on competency issues. Gen Ed Committee Chair, Rob Elflin, decided to put the topic to a vote.

Motion – Eric Stewart moved “**to approve the exemption of the student from FYI 101 and FYI 102 classes as presented in the Advanced Standing & Degrees Petition.**” Lisa Seidlitz seconded.

MOTION DENIED to approve the exemption of the student from FYI 101 and FYI 102 classes as presented in the Advanced Standing & Degree Petition. Rob will pass along the committee’s decision and feedback to AS&D.

2. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda items were reviewed by the members of the committee. Items can be pulled from this agenda with a single person requesting a discussion; items need 5 affirmative votes and no Discussion votes to remain on the consent agenda. After reviewing, **FYI 102 (Egan), and LC ANTH 320/HIST 336 (Kaul/Simonsen) were approved** via the consent agenda; G – ART 301 (Xiao) was pulled for more in-depth discussion.

3. Course Approvals

a. G – ART 301 (Xiao)

Although the committee was generally positive about this course, it had concerns that the course proposal did not directly address specific questions raised on the form. In addition, the committee was not entirely convinced of the course's "G-ness." It was agreed that this course should be tabled until Rob can reach out to Professor Xiao to address the committee's apprehensions and make constructive suggestions regarding this course proposal.

Motion – Brian Katz moved **"to table G – ART 301 (Xiao)."** Chris Strunk seconded.

MOTION PASSED TO TABLE G – ART 301(Xiao).

4. Semester Transition Planning

a. Summary of Comments from Faculty Retreat

Committee members in attendance at the Faculty Retreat shared some of their experiences. Topics of discussion included the transition to semesters, the Gen Ed on Semesters proposal and current issues with "D" and "G" suffixes.

b. Learning Perspective Forms

This will be an ongoing topic. Rob wishes to form sub-committees to better tackle the Learning Perspective Forms. Rob hopes to present a list next meeting.

c. Suffix Forms "G", "D", "Q"

General discussion on these existing suffix forms.

5. Discussion of G and D Suffixes

Rob presented an e-mail that was sent to him by Paul Croll. It brought to light some concerns that his and several other departments have raised regarding the Gen Ed in Semesters Proposal, specifically the passage regarding students taking "G" and "D" suffix courses after their first year. The main issue many departments are finding with this part of the proposal is the fact that many departments have first year courses that carry "G" and "D" suffixes. Those departments need to have their first years take these courses. How would that be handled under the current Gen Ed Policy? Rob asked if the committee should amend the proposal or leave it to the individual departments to handle changes as they evolve? Gillian Lederman stated that the Semester Transition Committee would be all right with allowing individual departments to handle individual incidents as they arise. But there is also a sticking point with some departments needing to use the "J Term" as a recruiting tool. Discussion of this topic will continue in next week's meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Second Language Requirement.

Discussion postponed due to time constraints

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

The snack duty list was passed around the table.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Miller