

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE Minutes for Meeting #1 – August 31, 2015

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.** on Monday, August 31, 2015 in Library Conference Room A, Chairperson Kinnie presiding.

The following members were present: Professors Buxton, Echevarria, Irvine, Mead, Orr, Stout, and Williams; Dean Richmond and Ms. Boyd-Colvin.

The following members were absent: Professors Bide, Lloyd, and Vice Provost Beauvais.

Guests: Professor MacDonald and Director Derbyshire.

- 2.** Minutes of GE Committee Meeting #10, May 7, 2015 were approved.

3. Announcements and Reports

Chairperson Kinnie welcomed new members to the Committee.

Chairperson Kinnie reminded the Committee of the upcoming Faculty Senate forum discussion on proposed changes to the General Education Program scheduled for September 10 and also the regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting, September 17, at which a motion to approve the changes would be made.

Chairperson Kinnie said that Professor MacDonald was in attendance to answer questions about the Library courses proposed, on the agenda, for general education credit in the existing program. Chairperson Kinnie informed the Committee that the Honors Program Director would be joining the meeting at 2:30 p.m. to discuss processing and approval of Honors courses in the new General Education Program.

Professor Echevarria asked why the Foreign Language Overlay, a subject previously introduced for consideration in July, was not included on the agenda under Ongoing Business. Professor Echevarria was told that the Foreign Language Overlay could be introduced under New Business.

4. New Business

- a.** The Committee reviewed and discussed LIB 150 (course change), LIB 250 (new course), and LIB 350 (course change) proposed in the core area of

English Communication. Professor MacDonald described the purpose of these changes. The Committee approved the courses for general education credit.

- b.** The Foreign Language Overlay, a proposed addition to the General Education Program, was introduced for discussion. Professor Echavarria described the proposed requirement: students would be required to take at least one course that engaged them predominantly in a language other than English. She described a course that would qualify for the overlay as one with greater than 50% of the course material presented in a language other than English (including sign language). This could include any combination of course lectures, audio-visual, written texts, and student assignments. Discussion ensued. The Committee moved approval of submitting a proposal for the Foreign Language Overlay requirement to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for their consideration to be presented at the September 10 Special Faculty Senate Meeting (forum) or on a regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting agenda.

5. Ongoing Business

- a.** The Committee discussed the proposed amendment to the General Education Program to limit the number of general education courses within a student's major course code. After considering feedback from Senior Associate Director Humphrey (via Ms. Neff) on the consequences of the kind and extent of the limitations, the Committee revised the language describing this amendment from:

Of the courses taken to complete major requirements that share the disciplinary code of the major department, up to three (3) courses or up to 12 credits not exceeding 3 courses may also be applied to General Education requirements. Of courses taken to complete a second, third, and subsequent majors that share the disciplinary code of the major departments, one (1) course or up to 4 credits each from the second, third, and subsequent majors may also be applied to General Education requirements.

to:

Of the courses taken to complete General Education requirements, only three (3) courses, or up to 12 credits not exceeding three (3) courses, may share the same disciplinary code. An exception to the limit is allowed for the HPR (Honors Program topic) course code. [the HPR exception was added subsequent to discussion with Director Derbyshire]

- b.** Director Derbyshire joined the meeting to discuss a process for structuring and approving HPR (honors topics) courses in the new General Education Program and a process for approving honors sections of approved general education courses (those with departmental course

codes). Director Derbyshire described honors courses as engaged in more intensive critical thinking pedagogy and described the need for greater flexibility in delivering the honors curriculum. Discussion ensued about the two kinds of honors courses, “H” sections of existing courses and honors topics courses that bear the HPR course code. Currently, if a course is approved for general education, a proposed honors “H” section of that course may also be scheduled with the same general education designations without the need for approval by the General Education Committee. It was agreed to retain this agreement. In the current General Education Program, most HPR courses qualify for general education credit under one of the Core Areas (Letters, Natural Science, Social Science, etc.). The Committee discussed a comparable structure for the HPR courses in the new Program suggesting that, as existing or new HPR courses are submitted, course numbers be assigned based on the outcomes assessed in the courses. If a course assessed one full and one partial outcome, it would be assigned to a number with title reflecting the full outcome (e.g., HPR 126, Honors Seminar in STEM, or HPR 127, Honors Seminar in Social Behavior, etc.). If a course assessed two full outcomes, it would be assigned to a number with title reflecting the both outcomes (e.g., HPR 132, Honors Seminar in STEM and Global, or HPR 133, Honors Seminar in Social Behavior and Information Literacy, etc.). Director Derbyshire asked that the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee be permitted to function as an approval panel for the second of the two proposed outcomes for any given honors course proposal. Discussion ensued. Concerns were expressed that honors courses would not be held to the same standard as other courses. Director Derbyshire said that the Honors Program and Visiting Scholars Committee members have experience on the General Education and Curricular Affairs Committees and that she assisted with the rubric for Cultural Competency and chairs that panel.

Because of the time, Chairperson Kinnie said that he would draft a statement of agreement between the General Education Committee and the Honors Program, to replace the current one, and circulate it electronically to the members for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff